

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

30 wooden residential sheds damaged in Parimpora blaze

SRINAGAR, Oct 1 (Agencies): At least 30 small wooden residential sheds were damaged in an early morning fire incident on Sunday at Parimpora area of Srinagar, officials said.

An official told the news agency KNO that at about 4:15 am in the morning, the control room in Srinagar received a call regarding the fire incident in Parimpora Srinagar and fire tenders rushed to the spot.

Upon their arrival at the scene, about thirty small wooden residential sheds were found involved in the fire, and due to timely and swift action by the fire and emergency services, the fire was soon brought under control. However, all the sheds have suffered damage in the incident.

He further added that the cause of the fire is being ascertained.

Traffic advisory issued for Kashmir Marathon-2023 on Monday

SRINAGAR, Oct 1 (Agencies): The traffic police Srinagar city on Sunday issued a traffic advisory as Jammu and Kashmir Police are gearing up to host "Kashmir Marathon-2023," a Run for Peace event that is expected to draw a diverse crowd from all walks of life. Scheduled for Monday, October 2nd, the marathon route will stretch from Lake View Park Golf Course (LVPGC) to Duck Park via the picturesque Nishat-Foreshore road.

To ensure the smooth movement of participants, the Boulevard Road in Srinagar will be temporarily closed for general traffic from 5:00 AM to 9:00 AM on the day of the event. As a result, traffic advisory measures have been put in place:

The section of Boulevard Road from Lalit Ghat to Nishat-Foreshore road up to Habbak Crossing will be discouraged for all traffic. Motorists coming from Harwan, Shalimar, and Nishat areas are advised to use alternate routes through Burzahama,

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Heroin worth crores recovered in Ramban, two arrested

BANIHAL/JAMMU, Oct 1 (Agencies): Police have recovered 30 kg of cocaine worth Rs 300 crore in international market from a vehicle in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, a senior police officer said on Sunday, claiming to have busted a narco-terror module.

According to the official, two Punjab residents were arrested following the recovery of one of the biggest narcotic haul this year from Banihal area along Jammu-Srinagar national highway.

Earlier, the recovered narcotics was believed to be heroin but after investigation it turned out to be cocaine.



"At about 10.30 pm on Saturday, Ramban police led by Senior Superintendent of Police, Mohita Sharma intercepted one vehicle at Railway Chowk Banihal coming from Kashmir towards Jammu

and recovered about 30 kg cocaine, having an approximate value of Rs 300 crore in international black market and apprehended two persons," Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Mukesh

Singh said. He said the successful recovery resulted in the busting of a narco-terror module.

A case under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic

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Police arrest 403 drug peddlers, recover drugs Worth Rs 12 Cr in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Oct 1 (Agencies): Police have arrested 403 drug peddlers, including 62 hardcore ones, and recovered drugs worth Rs 12.28 crore in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district this year, police said on Sunday.

They said as of September 30, the police have filed 231 cases under the Narcotics Drug and Phototropic Substances (NDPS) Act, resulting in the arrest of 403 drug peddlers, which include 62 hardcore drug peddlers who have been booked under PIT NDPS PSA.

Additionally, properties of drug peddlers worth Rs 2.1 crore, including three houses, three



vehicles, and cash worth Rs 1.2 crore, have been attached as well.

The contraband seized included brown sugar 2.670 kg worth Rs 3.47 crore, heroin 4.262 kg worth Rs 5.96 crore, charas 11.245 kg worth Rs 56.22 lakh, pomegranate straw, and cannabis powder 194.492 kg worth Rs 1.16 crore. Police have also seized

28 vehicles during this year until September.

However, the Baramulla Police, under its relentless campaign against drug peddling, has achieved remarkable success, as the number of registered cases has significantly dropped in recent months.

Further properties of drug peddlers worth

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Major Cache of Arms, Ammo recovered in Machil



SRINAGAR, Oct 1 (Agencies): A major cache of arms and ammunition was unearthed in the Poshmargi area of Machhal, said a police spokesman in a statement.

The operation, the statement reads, was initiated based on specific intelligence input developed by Kupwara Police underscores the unwavering commitment

of our security forces to maintain peace and security in the region.

"On the afternoon of September 30, 2023, a meticulously planned operation commenced in the suspected region, marked by its challenging terrain and the ever-present threat posed by anti-national elements. The collaborative

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Commercial LPG prices hiked by Rs 209

NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (Agencies): Jet fuel or ATF price on Sunday was hiked by 5 per cent — the fourth straight monthly increase since July, and commercial cooking gas (LPG) rates were raised by a steep Rs 209 per 19-kg cylinder, in line with the firming up seen in international benchmarks.

However, the price of domestic LPG — the one used in household kitchens for cooking purposes — remained unchanged at Rs 903 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was increased by Rs 5,779.84 per kilolitre, or 5.1 per cent, in the national capital to Rs 118,199.17 per kl from

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J&K Govt suspends two police officers



SRINAGAR, Oct 1 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir government on Sunday ordered suspension of two senior police officers including DySP Sheikh Adil, who was recently arrested in a corruption case in Srinagar.

According to an order, J&K home department stated that Adil Mush-taq, Deputy Superintendent of Police, shall be deemed to have been placed under suspension with effect from 21.09.2023.

Adil was arrested on September 21 in case FIR No. 149/2023 under sections 7, 7A of Pre-

vention of Corruption Act, 1988, and section 167, 193, 201, 210, 218, 221 of IPC in Police Station Nowgam.

The order stated that he shall remain attached with Zonal Police Headquarters Kashmir, during the period of suspension.

In a separate order, the home department ordered suspension of additional superintendent of police Budgam Gowhar Ahmad Khan with immediate effect.

"Pending enquiry into his conduct Gowhar Ahmad Khan, Addl. Superintendent of Police Budgam, is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect. It is further ordered that the Officer shall remain attached with Zonal Police

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All officers, Staff of Hazratbal Shrine suspended for negligence of duties

SRINAGAR, Oct 1 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board chairperson has ordered the suspension of all officers and staff of Hazratbal shrine for negligence of duties on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

According to the order, the action was taken during the surprise visit by the chairperson to Hazratbal shrine on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) in view of complaints by the people.

The order states that it was found that grave

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84-year-old man transforms regular bicycle into e-cycle using solar power

UDHAMPUR, Oct 1 (Agencies): An 84-year-old man from Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur transforms a regular bicycle into an eco-friendly e-cycle powered by solar and electricity.

Munshi Ram, an 84-year-old resident of Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir, has transformed a regular bicycle into an e-cycle. Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Vocal for Local" and "Green India" initiatives, he used discarded laptop batteries and e-waste to build his e-cycle.

A large number of local residents visited his house and shop to see his e-cycle and praised



him. Munshi Ram charges his e-cycle using both solar energy and electricity, promoting sustainability and eco-friendliness. He installed a solar panel on the rooftop of his house to generate the solar energy needed to charge his cycle.

Living by the belief that necessity fuels innova-

tion, he shared his motivation for embarking on this pioneering project. "I've always preferred self-reliance over public transport, and it bothered me that I couldn't easily visit my parental home in Patyeri, Jindrah, which is approximately 31 kilometres from here. So, I decided to take matters into my own hands," said Munshi Ram.

Drawing attention to the environmental concerns associated with electronic waste, he emphasized the importance of reusing discarded laptop batteries.

"Many people dispose of batteries and electronic waste indiscriminately, which harms our soil and environment. We must strive for our country to embrace green energy solutions to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment, free from electronic waste and other pollutants," he said.

Munshi Ram's transformation of a conventional bicycle into an eco-friendly e-cycle

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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar 9419143503

10TH DAY

We inform the sad and untimely demise of our mother **Mrs Usha Raina** wife of Dr Bal Krishan Raina S/o Late Smt Parmashevari Raina and Shree Dina Nath Raina of Seer Jagir Sopore Kashmir presently at 1827, Gali No 4, Kashmiri Block, Jain Nagar, Karala, New Delhi 110081.

10TH DAY will be held on 4th October 2023 Wednesday at Sect 16 Canal Ghat, Rohini, New Delhi.

SHOK SANTABT PARIVAR :

Dr Bal Krishan Raina - **Husband**
Son and Daughter-in-law
Ishan Raina and Smt Portia Raina
Aditya Raina and Mrs Khushboo Raina - **Son and Daughter-in-law**
Dr K. K. Sharma and Dr Sharika Sharma - **Nandoie and Nanad**
Dr Subash Raina and Dr Sheela Raina - **Nandoie and Nanad**
Dr Kuldeep Pandita and Mrs Khema Pandita - **Nandoie and Nanad**
Master Ivaan and Angad Raina - **Grand Children**
With Samast Raina and Kachroo Parivar.
9818185157, 9650699995, 9891234067



Mrs Usha Raina

MOURNING FROM MALIYUN SIDE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Bentathi (Smt Indrani Kaul W/o Late Prithvi Nath Kaul of Karfalli Mohalla Sgr) D/o Late Smt. Dhanwati and Late Sh Madav Lal Nehru of 61- Karan Nagar Sgr Kmr.**

MOURNING is being observed at D-404 SPS Residency, Indrapuram Ghaziabad UP.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 4th October 2023 Wednesday at 9:00 AM at Muradnagar Nehar Ghat U.P.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Brothers and Sisters-in-law**

Smt. Raj Dulari W/o Late Sh. M.L. Nehru Ph: 9419211055
Smt. Girja & Sh Roshan Lal Nehru - Ph 09312883053
Smt. Sheela & Sh Maharaj Krishen Nehru - Ph 09900173978

Sister

Smt. Shanta Kaul Sultan W/o Lt. Sh. M.L. Kaul Sultan
SAMAST NEHRU, KACHROO, DHAR & SULTAN PARIVAARS



Smt Indrani Kaul (Bentathi)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Radha Krishan Pandita (Baya) S/o Late Sh Kailash Ram R/o Sogam District Kupwara A/p H.No.101 Sector No.03 Durga Nagar Bantalab, Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 24-09-2023 (Sunday).**

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 02-10-2023 (Monday) Timing: 08:30 AM at Muthi Ghat near Director Education Department Muthi Jammu.

Grief Stricken**Nephews and Niece-in-law**

Sh Mohan Lal and Smt Sheela Reshi
Sh Shuban Lal and Smt Teja Reshi
Sh Rattan Lal and Smt Girja Pandita
Sh Anoop Pandita and Smt Sunanda Pandita

Mobile No. 9906386893, 9596086893



Sh Radha Krishan Pandita (Baya)

TENTH DAY & KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our mother **Smt. Narani Devi W/o Late Sh. Raj Kumar Dubey R/o 52 Fattu Chogan Jmu on 22nd Sept (Friday) 2023.**

Tenth Day shall be performed at Rani Talab (Tootian) on 1/10/2023 Sunday at 11:00 AM & Kriya on 2nd Oct 2023 (Monday) at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Son & Daughter in law**

Sh Vinay Kumar Dubey & Smt Sunita Dubey

Late Sh Anil Kumar Dubey & Smt Anita Dubey

Brother & Sister in law

Sh Kuldeep Sharma & Late Smt Sushma Sharma

Brother in law & Sister

Sh Ramesh Kumar Sharma & Smt Maya Sharma

Grand Sons

Sh Nitin Dubey

Sh Abhijeet Dubey

Mb . 9419197638



Smt. Narani Devi

10TH DAY & KRIYA

With great sadness and immense pain, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Chanchal Abrol W/o Sh. Shiv Kumar Abrol, resident of Ward No.7, Main Bazar Kathua who left for heavenly abode on 23rd Sept 2023.**

The demise leaves a heartache that no one can heal and left us alone in this materialistic world.

10TH DAY rituals will be performed on 2nd Oct (Monday) 2023 at 10:00 AM at our residence Ward No. 7, Main Bazar Kathua.

KRIYA will be performed on 5th Oct (Thursday) 2023 at 12:00 Noon at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Sh. Shiv Kumar Abrol -Husband****Son & Daughters**

Mr. Tarun Abrol

Miss Sheetal Sonia

Miss Romani Abrol

& All Family Members

Mob Nos: 70511-07087, 70511-96106



Smt. Chanchal Abrol

UTHALA

In Loving Memory of Kaushalya Devi Verma
Uthala ceremony will be held on 2nd of October, 2023 at Brahmin Sabha, Parade Ground, Jammu from 1 to 2 pm.

In Grief**Kishori Lal Verma - Husband****Son & Daughter-in-law**

Vishal Verma & Priti Verma

Grand Son & Grand Daughter

Krrish Verma & Gouri Verma

Shanker Stationery Store**Durga Stationery Store****Ladakh Stationery (Leh)**

Mob. No: 9419132480, 7006730825, 9419125794



Kaushalya Devi Verma

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Radha Krishan Pandita (Baya) S/o Late Sh Kailash Ram R/o Sogam District Kupwara A/p H.No.101 Sector No.03 Durga Nagar Bantalab, Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 24-09-2023 (Sunday).**

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 02-10-2023 (Monday) Timing: 08:30 AM at Muthi Ghat near Director Education Department Muthi Jammu.

Grief Stricken**Nephews and Niece-in-law**

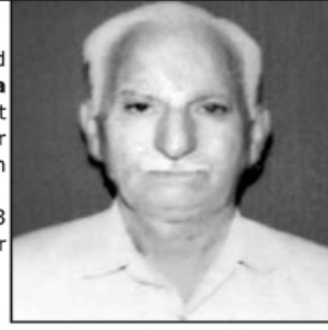
Sh Mohan Lal and Smt Sheela Reshi

Sh Shuban Lal and Smt Teja Reshi

Sh Rattan Lal and Smt Girja Pandita

Sh Anoop Pandita and Smt Sunanda Pandita

Mobile No. 9906386893, 9596086893



Sh Radha Krishan Pandita (Baya)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Ravinder Kumar Pandita (PUPU JI) S/o Late Sh. Prathvi Nath Pandita resident of Sangrampur - Sopore (KMR) at present H.No. 65-A, Gobind Nagar, Sector-1, Camp Road, TalabTillo, Jammu on 23-09-2023.**

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 2nd Oct 2023 (Monday) at 9:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Babeeta Pandita -Wife

Navdeep Pandita - Son

Apurva Pandita - Daughter

Smt. Sheela Ji Pandita - Auntie

Smt. Sarla Ji Pandita - Auntie

Brother and Bhabhi

Sh. Mohan Krishan Pandita and Smt. Lalita Pandita

Sister and Brother-in-law

Smt. Rajni Kumari and Sh. Autar KrishanTrakroo

Samast Pandita and Trakroo Parivar

Contact: 7889746699, 9419210107, 8053575411, 7006760988



Sh. Ravinder Kumar Pandita (Pupu Ji)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sudden & sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Mahesh Sharma S/o Lt. Sh. Madho Ram Sharma who expired on 20th Sept. 2023.**

TENTH DAY shall be performed on 29th Sept. 2023 (Friday) at 103 Madhav Krishna Cottage at 11.00 am at our residence.

KRIYA shall be performed on 30th Sept. 2023 (Saturday) at our residence from 12.00 Noon onwards.

UTHALA at Shree Gita Mandir Simriti Bhawan Complex (Bakshi Nagar) from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm on 02-10-2023 (Monday).

GRIEF STRICKEN**Smt. Kamlesh Sharma- Wife****Daughters & Son-in-Law**

Mrs. Shivalika and Abhishek Magotra

Mrs. Anshu and Siddharth Sharma

Hitarth Sharma- Son

Grand Children: Nirvaan & Dhairavi

All Family Members

Mob. Nos.: 9419131912, 9622588360



Sh. Mahesh Sharma

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Karamyogi SH. MAKHAN LAL BHAT Gulgami (PAPA JI) S/o Late Sh. Govind Ram resident of Gulgam, Kupwara Kashmir presently at Garhi Udhampur near Govt. Hr. Sec School who left for his heavenly abode on 23-09-2023.**

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Devika Ghat Udhampur at 8 AM on 2 Oct 2023 and assembly will be held at residence near Govt Hr. Sec. School Garhi, Udhampur at 10 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:**Smt. Omashori Bhat -Wife****Son & Daughter-in-law**

Sh. M K Bhat & Smt. Veena ji Bhat

Sh. A K Bhat & Smt. Anju ji Bhat

Daughter & Son-in-law

Sh. S. L Saproo & Smt. Kiran ji

Sh. Vinod Koul & Smt. Vineeta ji

Sh. Ashwini Bhat & Sheetal ji

Brother & Bhabhi

Sh. N L Bhat & Smt. Pyari ji

Sh. C L Bhat & Smt. Anju Ji

Smt. Nancy ji W/o Lt. Roshan Lal ji

Sh. A K Bhat & Smt. Nimi ji

Sh. P L Bhat & Smt. Girja Ji

Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Tosha ji & Sh. S N Koul

In laws

Pandita Family R/o Swaran Colony, Trilokpur

Grand-Daughter & Grand Son-in-law

Dr Meghna Koul W/o Shivake Koul



KARAMYOGI SH. MAKHAN LAL BHAT GULGAMI (PAPA JI)

Grand-Children

Dr Shafali Saproo, Sukshi Saproo,

Dr Vanshika Bhat, Riya Koul, Mohit Bhat,

Tanush Bhat, Tanshika Bhat, Oeishi Bhat &

Dhairya Bhat

CONTACT NO: 7006894261, 9797661951

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed that S. Lachman Singh S/o Late Gyani Suchha Singh Alam R/o 606/F, Nanak Nagar, Jammu has left for heavenly abode on 29/9/2023.

PROGRAM
Katha/Kirtan - 30/9/2023 to 05/10/2023 from 6.00 to 7.00 pm
Aramb Shri Akhand Path - 6/10/2023 (Friday) at 10.00 am (at residence)
Bhog Shri Akhand Path - 8/10/2023 (Sunday) at 10.00 am followed by Kirtan upto 11.00 am.

Antim Ardas - 8/10/2023 (Sunday) from 4.00 to 5.30 pm at Gurudwara, Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Brother & Sister-in-law**

Retd. Col. G.S. Babbar & Sdn. Harbans Kaur

S. Lakhbir Singh Bawa & Sdn. Harvinder Kaur

Daughter & Son-in-law

Sdn. Irvinder Kaur, Principal (10+2) & S. Arvind Singh Jt. Dir. Agriculture

Son & Daughter-in-law

S. Inderpreet Singh, Er. Nagbani School & Sdn. Gurpreet Kaur

Grand Children : Dr. Amanpreet Kaur (Registrar (Anesth) GMC)

Mr. Gursimran Singh (Er.) Miss Harshleen Kaur & Mr. Divjot Singh



S. Lachman Singh

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad & untimely demise of **Smt. Radha Khajuria W/o Jyoti Parkash Khajuria H. No. 74 Sector-2, JDA Housing Colony Upper Roop Nagar, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 25th September, 2023.**

10TH DAY will be performed on 4th October 2023, 10 am Wednesday at our residence 74/2 Roop Nagar.

KRIYA will be performed on 5th October 2023, 11 am Thursday at our residence 74/2 Roop Nagar Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Jyoti Parkash Khajuria - Husband****Sh. D. N. Mehta - Father-in-Law**

Smt. Tara Devi Khajuria - Mother-in-Law

Rashmi Khajuria - Daughter

Aditya Khajuria - Son

Brothers & Sister-in-Laws

Sh. B. B. Khajuria & Smt. Sunita Khajuria

Sh. Ram Pal Sharma & Smt. Bandana Sharma

Sh. C. R. Khajuria & Smt. Anjana Khajuria

Sh. K. K. Khajuria & Smt. Neena Khajuria - Uncle & Aunty

Sh. Ashok Kumar Khajuria & Smt. Santosh Khajuria - Uncle & Aunty

Sh. Ram Paul Khajuria & Smt. Neelam Khajuria - Uncle & Aunty

Late. Sh. V. V. Khajuria & Smt. Suman Khajuria - Uncle & Aunty

Tel: 9419195779, 9149512935



Smt. Radha Khajuria

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. M L Kaul S/o Late Sh Damodar Kaul, R/o 23, Nitco Lane, Jammu, originally of Srinivas, Karan Nagar, Srinagar who expired on 23rd September 2023, in New Delhi.**

The **TENTH DAY** shall be performed on Monday, 2nd of October, 2023 at Kashmiri Ghat, Nigam Bodh, New Delhi.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Dulari Kaul - Wife****Daughter and Son in Law**

Drs Nymphia and Anil Ganjoo

Son and Daughter in Law

Shivani and Anmol Kaul

(Grandchildren)

Anousha, Himansh and Bharvi

Kauls and Shishoos

SH. M L KAUL

Ph: 9811066584- Anil 8447734430- Pinu 6005675449- Dida

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Veer Ji Zadoo S/o Lt. Sh Ram Ji Zadoo originally resident of Purshayar Habba Kadal Srinagar at present H.No. 149 (H) Durga Nagar Sector-1, near JK Bank ATM.**

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed on Thursday 05th of October at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 8.30 am.



Sh Veer Ji Zadoo

GRIEF STRICKEN**Usha Ji Zadoo -Wife****Son & Daughter-in-law**

Vishal Zadoo and Sheetu Zadoo

Arvind Zadoo and Monika Zadoo

Grand Children: Aayan, Kritika, Aarya

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Chanchal Gupta W/o Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta R/o H.No. 214, Sec. No.2, Shivalki Puram, Janipur Colony, Jammu.**

10TH DAY shall be performed on 30th Sept 2023 Saturday at 11.00 to 12.00 Noon at our residence.

KRIYA shall be performed on 3rd Oct 2023 (

J&K's GST revenue growth has been much higher than national average: LG

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 1: J&K State Taxes Department today inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for knowledge sharing and capacity building of the officers of State Taxes Department, in presence of Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha.

In his address, the Lt Governor complimented the high standards of professionalism shown by the J&K State Taxes Department and ICAI.

He said the MoU signed today marked the beginning of a new partnership between ICAI and Jammu Kashmir.

The support and assistance of the ICAI to the State Taxes Department in future policy making and various other aspects related to taxation will strengthen the ongoing reforms in ease of doing business



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha speaking at the MoU signing ceremony.

and economy, he added. At the inaugural session of the Capacity building programme on GST, the Lt Governor lauded the honest taxpayers for their contribution in development of J&K and shared the efforts of the government for creating a favorable environment for economy and business.

The GST revenue growth of Jammu Kashmir has been much higher than the national average and we have

reasons to be confident about future prospects due to reforms we carried out in the last few years to accelerate economic growth with social equality, the Lt Governor said.

"New policies, greater transparency in governance and crackdown on cronyism have enabled enterprises, Industries and new-age businesses to grow. We have placed great emphasis to make the economy more competitive, increase the

tax base, compliance and strengthen trust between citizens and the Government," he said.

The Lt Governor appreciated the State Taxes Department for making tax-paying process seamless and friendlier in every district and spreading awareness on tax regime.

He urged the department and the citizens of the UT to play a constructive role in pushing forward to industrialisation and making J&K one of the engines of

Viksit Bharat.

The Lt Governor also assured all the necessary support by the administration to the ICAI for establishing their Centre of Excellence in the UT.

The Lt Governor released the revised edition of GST Acts and Rules - Bare Law and felicitated the consumers under 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' campaign.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance; Dr Rashmi Singh, Commissioner State Taxes Department; Sh Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, Vice President ICAI; Sh Sushil Kumar Goyal, Chairman, GST & Indirect Taxes Committee; Sh Umesh Sharma, Vice Chairman, GST & Indirect Taxes Committee; senior Officers; members of ICAI; representatives of Trade & Industry Associations and heads of educational institutions were present.

76 Bn CRPF organises 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' at Channi Himmat



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: In a remarkable demonstration of commitment to cleanliness and hygiene, the 76th Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), under the auspices of Range Jammu, conducted a significant cleanliness campaign, "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan," at the Green Belt park located at Unit HQ-76 Bn in Sector-7, Channi Himmat, Jammu. This initiative was executed under the dynamic leadership of Sh. Mahendra Singh, Commandant of 76 Bn CRPF, and Smt. Neena Gupta, Corporator of Channi Himmat, Jammu.

The program was inaugurated with the overarching goal of realizing the vision of a "Clean India." Sanitation and cleanliness are paramount in our daily lives,

servicing as a bulwark against dangerous diseases such as Dengue, Malaria, Typhoid, Hepatitis, and other ailments transmitted by mosquito bites. The event witnessed the active participation of a diverse group of individuals, including Sh. Ajay Kumar 21C (Staff Officer, Range Jammu), Sh. Rajesh Kumar Yadav (Second in Command), Sh. Girish Sontiyal (Deputy Commandant), Sh. Karnail Singh (Deputy Commandant), Smt. Divya Jain (President, Mahila Morcha South Jammu), Smt. Jyoti Vaid (President, Rotary Club of Jammu Elite), Pushpendra Singh Charak (BJP General Secretary, Jammu South), local residents of Channi Himmat and the surrounding areas, and the dedicated Jawans of 76 Bn CRPF.

The collective effort of these individuals and organizations underscores the commitment to a cleaner and healthier environment for all. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan serves as a reminder that together, we can make a significant impact and contribute to the broader goals of cleanliness and public health.

REQUIRED

Nursing Faculty Position: M.Sc Nursing in (Community Health)/MSN with a minimum of 3 years of experience required urgently at Rajiv Gandhi College of Nursing, Chak Bhalwal, Jammu (Pin-181122). Interested candidates, please send your resume to rgnjammu@gmail.com or contact us at 9419187867.

MP Khatana joins "Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta" Cleanliness Campaign

TOP NEWS REPORT

POONCH, Oct 1: In alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationwide "Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta" campaign, which aims to foster cleanliness throughout India, BJP Member of Parliament Er. Gulam Ali Khatana actively participated in a cleanliness drive in Surankote, Poonch.

The "Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta" initiative,

spearheaded by Prime Minister Modi, encourages individuals to dedicate one hour to cleaning their surroundings, thereby contributing to a cleaner India. This initiative has garnered widespread support across the nation, including in rural areas.

Er. Gulam Ali Khatana emphasized that maintaining cleanliness is a heartfelt tribute to Mahatma Gandhi,



Er. Gulam Ali Khatana who devoted his life to the principles of non-violence, peace,

and equality. Mahatma Gandhi famously referred to those considered untouchable as "Hari-yan" and championed cleanliness and hygiene through personal example.

In addition to his involvement in the cleanliness campaign, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana paid his respects to the departed souls of Haji Mushtaq Ahmed Bhatti in Kallar Kattal

and Mehtab Bukhari in Pamrote, Surankote, demonstrating his commitment to the community and his empathy for those in grief.

Er. Gulam Ali Khatana's active participation in the "Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta" campaign highlights his dedication to the values of cleanliness, community service, and the enduring legacy of Mahatma Gandhi.

BJP to face lack of support in impending elections from J&K youth: Sawhney

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress (JKPYC) State General Secretary Anirudh Sawhney in a statement said that the youth of J&K stands resolute in its commitment to bring about change in the upcoming elections. The youth of Jammu and Kashmir have witnessed the consequences of decisions made by this government, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which have jeopardized their future. Under the BJP's rule, Jammu and Kashmir faced unprecedented challenges: it was stripped of statehood, faced the prolonged communication blackout that hindered educational and economic opportunities for our youth, and a steep decline in job opportunities coupled with recruitment scams here, mismanagement of government examinations amongst several other issues. As a result, the aspirations of our young people have been stifled, and their dreams of a prosperous future have been put in jeopardy. Because of this, they are determined to bring a change in the elections as BJP has failed to meet the expectations, said Anirudh Sawhney.

Further speaking on the issue, Sawhney said that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir have voiced their resolute stance; they will not support the BJP in the next elections. Fueled by a desire

for change, this noise against the BJP reflects the urgency for a new direction in J&K's political landscape. He said that in response to the challenges created and augmented by the BJP government, youth is eager to participate in the democratic process and elect leaders who will prioritize their concerns, aspirations, and well-being. JKPYC, as an integral part of this movement, is working tirelessly to



mobilize young voters and engage them in the political discourse. We believe that by voting responsibly and advocating for the issues that matter most to our youth, we can chart a new course for Jammu and Kashmir. The youth of Jammu and Kashmir are determined to rebuild their future, and the JKPYC is committed to supporting this movement, he said.

He asserted that the unhappiness of Jammu and Kashmir's youth with the BJP government can be attributed to several factors. The BJP-led government's decision to demote Jammu and Kashmir from being a state to a Union Territory, was a major source of discontent. Subsequent communication shut downs

affected the ability of young people to access educational resources, information, and employment opportunities, causing frustration and hindrance to their growth. Against the picture painted by the BJP, the truth is that Jammu and Kashmir has experienced heightened security concerns and unrest. Most importantly, the youth of Jammu and Kashmir have faced challenges in finding stable and well-paying employment opportunities. The young people in Jammu and Kashmir have also realised that they have not been adequately represented or heard by the central government. Hence, it is very evident that BJP will not receive support from Youth of J&K in next elections.

Panthers gear up for Lok Sabha elections

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: A meeting of J&K National Panthers Party was held today at Jammu under the Chairmanship of its President Vilakshan Singh. The meeting was organized to evolve the strategies to be adopted by the party to ensure its success in the ensuing parliamentary elections.

Vilakshan Singh while addressing the meeting said that in the past people of J&K had reposed faith in Central as well as Kashmir centric parties but they have always been deceived. He said that people of J&K, particularly, Jammu had great aspirations from BJP but now they are repenting the

most for having voted BJP to power. Singh said that the public voice is being curbed and the unwanted taxes are being imposed upon them. Singh said that democracy in J&K is an illusion. He said that the residents of J&K have been deprived of their right to elect their representatives in the assembly for the last more than five years. Singh said that J&K National Panthers Party is the only party which can espouse the cause of the poor masses and ensure justice to the needy. Singh said that BJP is diverting the mind of the public and is misleading the public on the core issues. He said that BJP is deliberately delaying assembly elections in

UT of J&K as it has foreseen its defeat in the assembly elections.

Singh said that to preserve the Dogra identity it is very much necessary that candidates of the JKNPP are elected to the House of People. Singh said no party other than JKNPP can espouse the cause of Dogras in the parliament. He said central parties have failed to respect Dogra sentiments and NC and PDP have always worked to the detriment of Dogras.

In the meeting it was decided that the Parliamentary Board of the party shall be constituted within a week and the parliamentary board shall finalize the names of candidates who shall

contest parliamentary elections on the mandate of the party.

Singh asked the party workers to carry the agenda of the party to every corner of the UT and ensure that the party emerges as the most successful party in UT of J&K in the ensuing parliamentary elections. Singh appealed to the public to strengthen the hands of J&K National Panthers Party which is the only regional party which has always stood up for preserving the Dogra identity.

Others who were present in the meeting were Saleem Sheikh, Naresh Chib, Balwan Singh, Rajesh Gondhi, Ravinder Jamwal, Sanjeev Verma, Rakesh Gupta etc.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) PROJECT DIVISION-I
JAMMU
Email: xenprojectdivision1jmu@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 02 of 2023-2024 /PD-I Dated 27-09-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division-I Jammu invites Expression of Interest under for Hiring of 01 No. vehicle on monthly basis for using as operational Vehicle for the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division-I Jammu for a period upto March 2025. The rates are to be quoted per month basis.

S. No.	Category of Vehicle	Tender cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Number of Vehicle	Terms of Use
01.	Scorpio for Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Project Division-I Jammu	600/- (In the shape of Treasury Challan under MH-0059)	25000/-	01 No. Vehicle (Scorpio) with Driver without Fuel	To be used whole of the month including Saturday, Sundays, other Public Holidays and Gazetted Holidays.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-09-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 27-09-2023 to 07-10-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	-
4	Bid submission Start Date	27-09-2023 from 1300 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	07-10-2023 up to 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	09-10-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division-I Jammu.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Project Division-I Jammu uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR duly pledged to Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Project Division-I Jammu as mentioned in the bid documents.**
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Project Division-I Jammu, The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT with technical bid online.**

No:- EE/R&B/PD-I/160-65
Dated:- 27.09.2023

-Sd-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Project Division-I
Jammu

DIP/J-8982/23

EDITORIAL

CAREER
PLANNING

Career planning is the responsibility of the employee. Of course, the organisation has to provide opportunities for development of the employees and their careers to meet the requirements of the organisation. This means assisting the employees to achieve a better match between personal goals and the opportunities that are available in the organisation.

Career Planning refers to the process of finding a suitable job based on your interest, personality, skill set etc., choosing an educational program, changing jobs within your industry or to a different one and also that helps you to climb the success ladder in your current job. The career planning system manifests its importance in attracting competent people, providing suitable promotional and advancement opportunities, providing challenging work, enabling to develop, boosting morale, increasing motivation, utilizing managerial reserves, and in retaining the talents. Career progression refers to making progress in one's career through a series of right moves. Career development means actions undertaken by a person to achieve the career goals.

Career planning is the responsibility of the employee. Of course, the organisation has to provide opportunities for development of the employees and their careers to meet the requirements of the organisation. This means assisting the employees to achieve a better match between personal goals and the opportunities that are available in the organisation.

Sometimes, there may not be enough positions at higher level for upward movement of even high performers. Therefore, career planning efforts need to focus on those areas that offer psychological success instead of vertical growth. Psychological success is basically a feeling of personal achievement and fulfillment. In the current business environment, the career of a person may cover many organisations and different positions compared to earlier years when the employees were less mobile and organisations were more stable.

A career planning system coordinated within an organisation's staffing system fosters a well-integrated mechanism for meeting the present and future HR needs of an organisation. The system is designed to enhance the career satisfaction of employees and to improve the organisational effectiveness.

This will help the individual to explore, choose and strive to derive satisfaction from his/her own career. Career planning should not focus only on vertical hierarchical growth but should also offer psychological success. It is not an event or an end in itself, but a continuous process for developing human resource in order to achieve maximum result.

The career plan of an individual employee and the career path in the organisation should not have many differences. If the individual employee cannot convert his/her career plan into reality in the organisation, he/she may quit the organisation.

Therefore, organisations have the responsibility to provide support to the employee to plan his/her career, so that both their needs are satisfied. Career planning is not the same as human resource planning, as it only talks about the individual employee and his/her growth in the organisation. Of course, it assists in succession planning by giving a clear picture of the individual's potentials.

HR planning is a broad concept which helps the organisation in performing all HR related activities, separately deciding sub plans for them. HR plan helps in analysing and estimating the need for and the availability of employees in an organisation. However, career planning assists in HR planning by providing information on the strength and willingness of employees

In everyday parlance, the word 'career' is used in a number of different ways. People speak of 'pursuing a career', 'career planning', and attending 'career workshops'. Job fairs are held where information is available about different career options for college students.

A career then is a sequence of positions occupied by a person during the course of his or her life. This may be considered as an objective perspective of career. In a subjective sense, it refers to where one is going in one's work life. The subjective viewpoint is more-or-less held together by a self-concept that consists of perceived inclinations and abilities, basic values, career motives, and needs.

New architecture not likely to change character of Parliament

By: Pavan K Varma

In 1911, the British decided to shift their capital from Kolkata to a new city, New Delhi. The entire project, including the imposing Viceroy's palace (now Rashtrapati Bhavan), and the North and South Blocks, leading through a wide boulevard, King's Way, to India Gate, took twenty years to finish. In 1931, the new capital was inaugurated, intended to be a monumental assertion of British rule, a way to awe the 'natives' into accepting continued colonial hegemony. But it was too late. By then the freedom movement had gathered renewed momentum. The British had to leave their grand creation, New Delhi, in 1947.

I recall this to illustrate that often in the construction of new edifices, there is a fatal gap between the probable ideological intentions of the architects, and the reality that follows. On September 19, 2023, Prime Minister (PM) Modi formally jettisoned the old Parliament, and moved to the grandiose new one adjacent to it. In his statesman-like speech to bid farewell to the old, he hoped that the new Parliament would also lead to better, less disruptive, more cooperative and dignified parliamentary proceedings, where debates would be carried out with civility and decorum. He further assured the Speaker that, on his part, he would ensure that all members of his party would conform to this new resolve.

However, just as the intentions of the British with regard to their grand new capital were belied, the PM's hopes — and promises — about the new Par-

liament were also shattered, that too in its very first session. Ramesh Bidhuri, a BJP MP in the Lok Sabha (LS), used language against Kunwar Danish Ali, a Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MP, that left the nation shocked. Full of invectives, and unmentionable abuse about him and Muslims in general, it was a disgraceful reminder that however beautiful the new Parliament may be physically, its spirit is even uglier than that of the old. Nothing has changed, but things could only perhaps worsen.

Over the years, political discourse in the world's largest democracy, has reached a new low. Abuses, slurs, racist comments, and undesirable personal attacks, have become the new normal. The worst exceptions of the past, when Parliament was indeed a forum for civilised discourse, have become the best examples of parliamentary proceedings today. But rarely, have we ever witnessed, in the very temple of our democracy, the kind of abusive and racist language used by Bidhuri against Danish Ali. What is worse is that two respected BJP MPs, Harsh Vardhan and Ravi Shankar Prasad, who have been senior ministers, could be seen laughing at the disgusting language used by their party colleague.

To be fair, Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri, stood up to express "regret" at what Mr Bidhuri had said. But there was no outright condemnation either by the PM, who is also the Leader of the Lok Sabha, nor by any other senior leader of the BJP. On the contrary, there was a concerted attempt the very next day by some BJP leaders to con-

done Mr Bidhuri's unpardonable language by saying that he was "provoked" by Danish Ali's alleged derogatory remarks about the PM. Mr Ali has denied these allegations, but if true he, too, needs to be chastised by his party leader, Mayawati, and to render an apology.

However, there is little doubt that Mr Bidhuri's language has shamed his party. In the past, too, Prime Minister Modi has expressed sorrow for the comments made by senior members of his party, including MPs and ministers. In 2019, 'Sadhvi' Pragma Thakur Singh, a member of the LS, said inside Parliament and outside, that Godse, the assassin of Mahatma Gandhi, was a "deshbhakt" (patriot). Although she attempted a half-hearted apology for her outrageous comment, the PM said that he will never be able to forgive her. But she has remained a BJP MP. Will she be given a ticket again by the party in 2024? Sakshi Maharaj, another BJP LS member, had said the same thing in 2014. There were reports that Mr Modi was "annoyed" by his comment, but no punitive action was taken, except for Sakshi Maharaj apologising for his comment. In the same year, 'Sadhvi' Niranjan Jyoti, a minister in the Central government, said in a public speech before the Delhi Assembly polls, that voters had to choose between "ramzadon" and "haramzadon" — an obvious and condemnable slur on a particular minority. In spite of this, she was let off with a perfunctory rap on her knuckles and continues to be a minister. BJP MP Parvesh Varma, called for the total boycott of

Muslims at a public speech in Delhi in 2022. No action was taken against him either.

Opposition parties are not entirely blameless. I have no sympathy for the Opposition's unruly behaviour, its repeated use of coarse language and routine breach of parliamentary decorum. But the perception must exist that punishment for unacceptable conduct will be impartial. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, leader of the Opposition in the LS, of whose leadership and language I am not an admirer, was immediately suspended from the House for a much lesser offence, and his case referred to the privileges committee. Similar punishment has been meted out to many other Opposition MPs in both Houses. Yet so far, the Speaker has only expunged Mr Bidhuri's vile expletives and issued him a warning, but nothing more. This certainly reflects on his impartiality. What is worse is that Mr Bidhuri has now apparently got a pat on his back by his party, by being given charge of Tonk constituency — from where Sachin Pilot is the Congress candidate — in the forthcoming Rajasthan Assembly elections.

What precedent does this set? Mr Modi's noble hope, that the new Parliament will also see qualitatively new parliamentary proceedings, was laudable, but previous precedents do not augur well. There is too much hate, bigotry and mistrust for this to happen. The truth, alas, is that just as new clothes don't change the character of a person, the new building is unlikely to change the character of our Parliament.

Why BJP MPs worried in Rajasthan; Hiren Joshi is PM's right hand

By: Anita Katyal

Political activity has picked up speed now that key Assembly polls are round the corner. While leaders of major parties have hit the campaign trail, the Bharatiya Janata Party has taken the lead in declaring the names of candidates for the year-end Madhya Pradesh election. But the inclusion of seven Lok Sabha MPs, including three Union ministers, and a senior party functionary in the list has not gone down well with those chosen as none of them wish to contest state elections. There is talk that Union minister Prahlad Singh Patel and BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya have been included essentially to deny tickets to their family members. Mr Vijayvargiya's son Akash is an MLA from Indore and Patel's brother Jalam Singh Patel represents the Narisngpur constituency in the state Assembly. Both these MLAs have courted controversies during their tenure which has not gone down well with the BJP leadership. Akash Vijayvargiya was in the news three years ago when he attacked a civic official with a cricket bat following an argument over a demolition drive. Jalam Singh Patel has been named in several criminal cases and in one such instance, he was also

arrested. Mr Vijayvargiya has reason to worry as he has been allotted a constituency in Indore which he has not contested before while Prahlad Patel is nervous because he owes his victory to his brother's organisational skills and grassroots connection. There is a likelihood that his brother may not put in his best effort this time as he is not in the fray himself.

After the Bharatiya Janata Party chose to field sitting MPs and Union ministers in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls, it is believed the same experiment could be repeated in poll-bound Rajasthan. This has got the Rajasthan MPs worried as they are obviously not keen to contest for Assembly polls though these appear to be favourable for the BJP. They are not inclined to move to state politics after enjoying a stint on the national political stage. Former Union minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, who represents Jaipur Rural constituency in the Lok Sabha, is among the jittery Lok Sabha MPs from the desert state. He has been spending a lot of time in his constituency and campaigning hard in the hope of contesting next year's Lok Sabha polls. He is concerned that if he is fielded in the Assembly polls and is elected, he will not be considered for a Lok Sabha seat. He has been nursing hopes of becoming

a minister at the Centre again, post 2024 elections. Meanwhile, the Congress is enjoying the predicament of BJP MPs, with one senior leader cackling, "Thank God, we have zero MPs from Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh."

While the Bharatiya Janata Party has been quick to select its candidates for the coming Assembly polls, the Congress is still to get its act together. According to party insiders, Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath is taking his time as he expects more defections from the BJP in the coming days. This is worrying sitting legislators and other party hopefuls who feel their names could be axed to accommodate as the newly-inducted leaders will be given preference in ticket distribution. Then there is a tussle with poll strategist Sunil Kanugolu who is believed to have been told by Kamal Nath that candidate selection should be left to the party and that he should focus on drawing up campaign pitches on different issues.

A favourite topic of discussion in Delhi is to identify the most powerful and important person in the Prime Minister's Office. The names of principal secretary P.K. Mishra and national security adviser Ajit Doval come to mind immediately but it is low-key Hiren Joshi, OSD, communications and information technology,

who is said to be extremely close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Not only does Mr Joshi handle the PM's social media accounts but he also enjoys easy access to Mr Modi. Little wonder then that people who wish to meet the PM first line up to meet Mr Joshi, who is invariably too busy with work to meet them in a hurry.

The decision by several members of the Opposition bloc, INDIA, to boycott the talk shows conducted by 14 television news anchors has often been ignored by enthusiastic Congress members, much to the annoyance of the party's media department. For instance, Congress Lok Sabha MP Ravneet Singh Bittu recently participated in a debate on the downturn in India's relations with Canada which was conducted by a prime time news anchor who figures in the list of 14 put out by the INDIA grouping. Similarly, a young Youth Congress member was also seen in conversation with a "banned news anchor". While she was reprimanded and issued a notice, the Congress media department appeared reluctant to pull up Mr Bittu for flouting the party diktat. The Punjab leader, it was said, would be issuing an apology. It is still being awaited. This preferential treatment meted out to Mr Bittu has also caused a lot of heartburn in the party.

Modi Govt schemes significantly improved quality of life for weaker sections: Bali Bhagat

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: Bali Bhagat, senior BJP leader and former Minister for Health & Medical Education, Forest, Ecology and Environment, and Social Welfare, undertook a significant outreach initiative under the ongoing Basti Sampark Abhiyan in Jammu.

As a part of the campaign, the former minister along party workers today visited over 25 homes in JMC Ward Number 59, Paloura, North Assembly Constituency. Bali Bhagat interacted with the local residents and shed light on the numerous welfare schemes initiated by the Modi Government over the past nine years.

After interacting with people, the former minister observed that how these schemes have positively impacted the lives of the weaker sections of society, bringing transformative changes. He highlighted that almost every household in his constituency is benefiting from central-sponsored schemes, a



testament to the government's commitment to inclusive development. He expressed the widespread contentment and satisfaction among the people with the work of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He noted that the Modi Government's direct benefits through centrally sponsored schemes have significantly improved the quality of life for the weaker sections of society, ensuring a more equitable and prosperous future for all. Bali Bhagat asserted that the Modi government has uplifted the weaker sections

of society, especially those belonging to Scheduled Castes. He highlighted the numerous schemes and initiatives introduced by the Modi government that are aimed at improving the lives of people from these communities. He said the visit served as an opportunity to connect with the people, understand their needs, and create awareness about the government programs designed to empower the marginalized sections of society.

"The transformative impact of Modi Government's schemes reaffirmed BJP's dedication

to the principles of good governance and comprehensive development," he added.

The former minister also congratulated the Lt Governor for achieving "Open Defecation Free" status in Jammu and Kashmir, attributing this accomplishment to the policies and collaborative efforts of the Modi Government and the administration in the region. He emphasized that the tangible improvements on the ground are a testament to the positive changes being witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir Union territory.

Govt Polytechnic organizes 'Sawachhata Hi Seva'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: Government Polytechnic Bikram Chowk Jammu organized a series of activities under "Sawachhata Hi Seva Campaign - 2023" in the institute under the guidance of Directorate of Skill Development Department J&K. With the mission to check growing pollution and to save our planet, 'Cleanliness Drive' under "Sawachhata Hi Seva Campaign" was organized on 1st of October 2023 as per the directives of MHRD, Govt of India. Er Arun Bangotra Principal Government Polytechnic Jammu, along with the HODs, staff and students participated in the campaign. In order to curb the plastic menace, the students took the pledge on 'Plastic Waste



Management', 'Sanitation' and 'Cleanliness Drive' besides campaigning against the 'Single Use of Plastic'. To spread awareness about environmental pollution, the students and staff participated in a 'Walkathon' from institute campus to bikram chowk after that a cleanliness drive was organized in the area surrounding the college campus. All the staff and students were armed with brooms, dustbins, and a shared

vision with various slogans on discouraging the use of polybags and making alternative arrangements instead to the use of plastic and thereby support the Nationwide campaign to keep our earth green and eco-friendly. The students of the institute participated in various activities such as rangoli making, debate competition, poster making etc.

Er Arun Bangotra Principal Government Polytechnic Jammu in

his address to the students advised them to play a vital role and carry-out mass awareness programme to save our environment by planting trees, saving water and keeping the environment clean and importance of a garbage-free environment. Principal along with Sh. Inderjeet Singh Workshop Supdt., Sh. Raj Kumar HOD Mechanical, Sh. Sukhdeep Singh HOD Civil Engg., Sh. Manjeet Singh HOD Electrical Engg., Smt. Rani Devi HOD IT, Ms. Jasdeep Kour HOD I&C., Sh. Sanjay Koul HOD Computer., Sh. Amit Sharma HOD T&T, Sh. Chamel Singh PEM, Smt. Toshi PET, staff and students of Government Polytechnic Jammu actively participated in all the activities taken up to mark the occasion.

AP's Youth Wing to organize anti-drug movement in Jammu from Oct 15: Vipul

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: Apni Party Youth Wing Provincial President Jammu, Vipul Bali has said that the Party is going to launch an anti-drug movement in Jammu from October 15th to raise awareness against drug addiction.

As per a press release, Vipul Bali said that the Apni Party has decided to launch a movement against the drug addiction in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The drug addiction has given rise to the multiple crime activities in Jammu like theft and posed serious



threat to the peaceful life," he said, and added that the police cannot handle the drug addiction alone, but the society must join hands with them to curb the menace.

He demanded that the Govt should install CCTV and street lights in areas affected with

drug addiction so that the drug peddlers could be nabbed, and the chain of drug smugglers can be unearthed by the police.

"The civil society, family members of drug addicts, and police should work in coordination with each other to deal with the situ-

ation that has turned alarming," he added.

He said that the Apni Party is committed to fight the social evils, drug addiction, and anti-social activities in the society.

He reminded that the Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari had donated Rs 5 lakhs each in Jammu and Kashmir Divisions to fight against the drug addiction.

"We will take forward the initiative taken up by the Party President and educate people against the drug addiction in a put up fight against the drug addiction and increasing crime," he added.

IIA J&K Chapter celebrates World Architecture Day 2023

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: The newly established Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) Jammu and Kashmir Chapter marked World Architecture Day 2023 with a series of impactful events centered around the theme of preserving heritage, promoting health, and safeguarding the environment.

The day's festivities commenced with a Heritage Walk, symbolizing the profound connection between our cultural heritage, physical fitness, and the natural world. Starting at the Amar Mahal Museum and meandering through the scenic Manda Forest before returning, the walk served as a poignant reminder of the importance of preserving our rich cultural legacy, fostering physical well-



being, and cherishing the beauty of nature.

In keeping with their commitment to community service, the IIA J&K Chapter presented various medical equipment to the BSF Hospital. This gesture underscored their deep appreciation and unwavering dedication to serving society and supporting the healthcare needs of the community.

As architects, the IIA J&K Chapter understands the role of architecture in shaping not only our built environment but also our connection to our heritage, health, and the world around us. Their World Architecture Day celebration encapsulated this holistic perspective, emphasizing the symbiotic relationship between architecture and the well-being of

individuals and communities.

The IIA J&K Chapter extends its heartfelt gratitude to all participants, sponsors, and collaborators who contributed to the success of World Architecture Day 2023. Their collective efforts are a testament to the enduring spirit of architects and their commitment to uniting heritage, health, and humanity.

Dysfunctional state of Indian Red Cross Society in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory is facing a state of dysfunctionality, raising concerns about its inability to fulfill its humanitarian mission. This dire situation is primarily attributed to the adamant attitude of senior functionaries occupying leadership positions within the organization.

Currently, the IRCS in Jammu and Kashmir is under the leadership of General Secretary, Rohit Khajuria, who oversees the operations of the Red Cross Society in Jammu. However, the Treasurer of the Society, whose official chair is in Jammu, is reportedly operating from Kashmir, in a manner that appears to disregard government service rules and the principles of efficient governance.

The Indian Red Cross Society is mandated to operate in accordance with the rules established by the Parliament

of India. However, some senior officers within the organization seem to be undermining these rules and principles for their own convenience.

According to the Parliament rules, the authority of the Indian Red Cross Society should be vested in the hands of civil society members through the constitution of district-level committees. Regrettably, out of the 20 districts within the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, district-level committees have been established in only a few districts. Furthermore, the civil society members heading these committees are allegedly deprived of their executive powers. This indicates a reluctance on the part of the General Secretary IRCS to share executive authority with Civil Society members, thus undermining the Parliament's rules and directives.

The lack of executive power in the hands of the Civil Society members severely impacts the functioning of Red Cross Society, leav-

ing hamstrung and unable to fully realize its humanitarian goals.

It is imperative for the Jammu and Kashmir Administration to intervene and issue necessary directives to ensure that executive powers are rightfully placed in the hands of Civil Society members representing the District Committees of Jammu and Kashmir. This move would revitalize the functioning of the Indian Red Cross Society and enable it to better serve its mission.

Moreover, there is a pressing need to establish District Committees of the Red Cross across the entire Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory to ensure that the Society operates effectively and efficiently.

An appeal is made to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to address this issue promptly and take necessary actions to rejuvenate the Indian Red Cross Society in Jammu and Kashmir, aligning it with its noble humanitarian objectives.

Swachhata Hi Seva, 2023 organised at University of Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: A tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on the eve of his 154th Birth Anniversary, an elaborate cleanliness drive was organized at the University of Jammu on 1st of October, 2023 under the aegis of Swachhata Pakhwada - Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS), 2023 by the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

The drive, which was organised by the Department of Students Welfare, was conducted on the university campus and hostels and was conducted by the teachers, students, scholars, staff, NSS Volunteers of Campus Units 1 & 4, Cultural Representatives and members of the Campus Cultural Committee. It was led by Prof. Sarika Manhas, Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee in coordination with Prof. Prakash Antahal, Dean Students Welfare and Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee. Prominent amongst those who attended the drive included Dr. Seema Rohmetra, I/c Director, Gandhian Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies, University of Jammu, Dr. Shailu Sehgal, Dr. Neelam Chowdhary, Dr. Harish Dutt, Dr. Sarabjeet Kour, Dr. Inderjeet Singh, Dr. Mandeep Singh and Sumeet Sharma. The drive at hostels was led by Chinmoyee Maharana, Dr. Sushma Devi and Ms Anjali under the supervision of Prof. Shashi Manhas, Provost Girls.

A pledge was also administered in which it was vowed by the faculty and students that we shall support truth without fear or prejudice, we shall oppose all forms of communalism, casteism and chauvinism, we shall rise above religion, caste, creed, community, language or gender and respect one another on grounds of our common humanity and we will not co-operate with people opposing these values. Moreover, we will not take any steps which would harm our country or ruin its reputation as we are proud to be Indians and we shall work for the unity of India and shall dedicate ourselves to the task of making India a great and progressive nation.

LG administration fails to develop Bani, Lohai Malhar: Yasar

TOP NEWS REPORT

BANI, Oct 1: Apni Party District President Kandi and Incharge Bani Lohai Malhar Constituency, Yasar Choudhary has expressed serious concern over the delayed development in Bani Subdivision that is visible with a bridge awaiting construction work for the last five years.

In a statement to the press, Yasar said that the foundation stone for the construction of a bridge was laid in Bani five years back. However, its construction work is yet to be initiated.

"The bridge was required to connect a huge population in Bani, but the concerned authorities have ignored its construction for the last five years. It appears that the authorities and concerned officials tasked to construct the bridge do not fear any kind of accountability," he said.

He however said that the elected Govt holds such officials / authorities accountable, but the democratic system is missing in J&K for the

last several years.

He also raised the issue of shortage of staff/doctors in hospital/PHCs and schools having more students, less staff/teachers than required in Bani that has led to the suffering of people.

In view of the suffering of the people, he appealed to the Govt to deploy the required number of field officers, staff and doctors in the educational institution, and hospitals so that the people do not suffer.

He also demanded basic amenities in Bani and road infrastructure while expressing surprise as to why the construction of the bridge has not been started yet.

During a week-long tour in Bani, he said that he met people from different segments of society where the developmental works are in deplorable condition.

"Field officer's top-ranking posts in Bani - Lohaimalhar Constituency are vacant that includes BDO Duggan, BDO Dugain, BDO Lohai-Malhar, CDPO

Bani, Naib Tehsildar concerned, etc. The shortage of field officers, doctors as well as staff members in different Govt Departments in Bani and other areas has adversely affected the development," he said.

He criticised LG administration for its failure on the developmental front and accused them of neglecting the genuine demands of the people in Kathua's remote and peripheral areas.

He said that the Lohai Malhar-Kattii road has been closed for the last three years, and its DPR is being changed instead of opening the road for the commuters to ensure proper road connectivity to the remote areas.

He also took up the issue of poor work by the Tourism Department to promote the tourism sites in Bani, Lohai Malhar and other areas. He demanded that the tourism sites must be explored for the promotion of tourism so that employment can be generated at the local level.

Unraveling truth behind Waheeda Rehman's viral video dancing to 'Aaj phir jeene ki' - Simi Garewal sets record straight

In an era dominated by social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, viral videos and content sharing have become a routine part of online interaction. People enthusiastically share intriguing videos they come across, often leading to the rapid dissemination of content through various WhatsApp groups and Instagram feeds. This phenomenon recently took center stage when a video purportedly featuring the iconic actress Waheeda Rehman gracefully dancing to the classic tune "Aaj Phir Jeene Ki" went viral. However, as is often the case with such content, there's more to the story than meets the eye.

The Viral Video: An Enchanting Dance by Waheeda-ji?

The video in question instantly captivated viewers, who were led to believe that it showcased the legendary Waheeda Rehman showcasing her dance skills with grace and poise, even in her golden years. This assumption sparked a wave of excitement among social media users, prompting them to share the video widely with their friends and followers on various platforms.

Simi Garewal's Investigation: Separating Fact from Fiction

Notably, the video also caught the attention of veteran actress Simi Garewal, who, like many others, suspected it might indeed feature Waheeda



Rehman. Determined to confirm the video's authenticity, Simi Garewal reached out to Waheeda's daughter for verification. To everyone's surprise, Waheeda's daughter unequivocally denied that her mother had participated in any such dance video.

Setting the Record Straight

With this confirmation, Simi Garewal took to social media to set the record straight. She shared a post emphatically stating that the viral video allegedly featuring Waheeda-ji dancing to "Aaj Phir Jeene Ki" was unequivocally fake, as per information provided by Waheeda Rehman's family. In her post, Simi Garewal underlined, "A video has gone viral recently on WhatsApp of (supposedly) Waheeda-ji dancing to 'Aaj Phir Jeene Ki' in a garden. Her family is not on social media and has asked me to please inform

everyone that it's a FAKE video! OK, guys? Now you know!"

The Perils of Viral Content

Simi Garewal's revelation shed light on a common phenomenon in the age of viral content. Many netizens had drawn uncanny similarities between the elderly lady in the video and Waheeda Rehman herself, illustrating the power of rapid content sharing on platforms like WhatsApp. Users often forward messages without scrutinizing them closely, which can lead to the spread of misinformation.

The True Dancer Behind "Aaj Phir Jeene Ki Tamana"

So, who is the real dancer behind the enchanting moves in the video? It turns out that the graceful dancer in the video is Sunila Ashok, a former teacher with a deep passion for dance. She was the one who performed the dance cover of "Aaj Phir Jeene Ki Tamana."

Honoring a Bollywood Legend: Waheeda Rehman

Waheeda Rehman, a legendary figure in Bollywood, is chosen for the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the growth and development of Indian cinema and is presented by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's (I&B) Directorate of Film Festivals.

Waheeda Rehman's Illustrious Career

Born on February 3, 1938, Waheeda Rehman has been a prominent figure in the Indian film industry since 1955. Her journey began as a dancer in the Telugu social drama "Manojulu Marayi." She made her Bollywood debut with Raj Khosla's "CID" (1956), playing a 'vamp' opposite the matinee idol Dev Anand. During the 1950s and '60s, she emerged as a celebrated superstar, often referred to as the 'Golden Age of Hindi cinema.'

Waheeda Rehman's illustrious filmography includes "Kaagaz Ke Phool" (1959), "Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam" (1962), "Abhijan" (1962, directed by Satyajit Ray), "Teesri Kasam" (1966), "Ram Aur Shyam" (1967), "Khamoshi" (1969), "Kabhi Kabhie" (1976), "Namkeen" (1982), "Lamhe" (1991), "15 Park Avenue" (2005), "Rang De Basanti" (2006), and "Vishwaroopam II" (2018).

Jawan actor Priyamani says South Indian films frequently address political issues, northern audiences are more hesitant



Despite more than 20 days having passed since its release, Atlee Kumar's Shah Rukh Khan-starrer Jawan is showing no signs of slowing down. After surpassing the Rs 1,000-crore milestone globally, Jawan is now on track to cross the Rs 600-crore mark in the domestic market.

As the movie continues to garner widespread love and acclaim, actor Priyamani, who played a key role in Jawan, is overjoyed as the film holds special significance for her. Jawan

marks her second collaboration with Bollywood's Baadshah, following her appearance in a dance number in Rohit Shetty's Chennai Express (2013), which starred SRK and Deepika Padukone in lead roles.

Priyamani recently shared her thoughts on the ability of South Indian film industries to address important social issues in their movies, in contrast to Bollywood.

Emphasising that one doesn't necessarily be involved in active politics to portray a mes-

sage or reality, Priyamani told agency that the film industries in the south have always been vocal about such subject matters. She confidently stated that the issues addressed in Jawan, including farmers' suicides, the importance of doctors, and the oxygen tragedy, have happened in real life. Priyamani also noted that the film's resonance with the audiences was due to its willingness to address these topics, which people frequently encounter, stating, "It was high time that somebody spoke about them."

Hailing from Bengaluru in Karnataka with roots in Tamil Nadu and Kerala as well, Priyamani proudly commended the southern film industries, noting that the films being produced here have always touched upon a lot of subjects and added they continue to be a part of the storytelling process.

"I guess people up North have also faced such issues, but they were not open enough to talk about it," she said, adding that she hoped Jawan would encourage them to express their concerns more eloquently.

Pakistani singer Zeb Bangash says 'Bollywood felt like coming home', laments the current non-exchange of artists between India and Pak

She always thought composing music for an entire film in Bollywood would mean extremely high pressure and working in a somewhat corporate structure. However, Zeb Bangash, the first Pakistani artist to serve as music director of a Bollywood film - 'Lipstick Under My Burkha' - recalls it felt more like "coming home".

Stressing that the movie was very special as there was a real sense of creating something new, and carving out a space that was absent before, she recalls: "Alankrita Anvita, Ankur Mukherjee, Amrit Mahajan and I shared and carried that sentiment with us. It really was like finding a community. Meetings were held, not in production houses but in homes over food and music, jokes, and poetry."

Lamenting the current non-exchange of artists between India and Pakistan, she says for her, it is not about opportunities lost vis-a-vis audiences and markets, but the fact that it shrinks an artistic community.

"The movie we created was not supposed to be a bazillion crore hit. It was just special and important for a special and important artist who we all believed in, and who believed in us. That kind of camaraderie between neighbours is so enriching -- and I say that from experience," says the artist whose first outing in India was with the film 'Madras Cafe'.

All set to perform live at Times Square in New York in collaboration with renowned 2023 Pollack Prize winner artist Shahzia Sikander, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Du Yun, and



interdisciplinary artist Eddy Kwon on September 30, she says: "To be right there in Times Square and perform live, while the square is immersed in Shahzias work, just thinking about it feels like a dream. It is exhilarating and surreal. Collaborating with Du Yun, and Eddy Kwon for 'Reckoning' has been an enchanting journey. To be a part of this synergy of art and music, coming together in this historic public celebration is one of the best things that could happen."

For someone who sings in multiple languages, she laughs when asked which one is closest to her. "Pashto makes me think of home, Urdu and Hindi open up my imagination, Persian feels like a warm hug, Kashmiri feels like being transported to a magical land, Turkish is nostalgia and Punjabi is the closest friend -- like a yaarana."

Co-founder of the band 'Sandaraa' (with Michael Winograd), a project she calls closest to her heart, Bangash, ended up playing with him entirely by chance in the US, and on that gig, they decided to play together again. Soon after, the band came together.

"We shared the same vision of the band as co-founders but really Michael is the captain of the ship. He got a stellar group of Brooklyn-based musicians from Klezmer, European, Jewish music, heavy metal, Jazz, Turkish and Arabic styles. I learned so much about musical aesthetics and diversity working with them. The vision is to build bridges between cultures and tell stories with music that blur the lines between the past, present, and future."

She feels being in Sandaraa validated much of her "weirdness". "All that home could not understand about me... I found space to sing Sabzal Samagi's Balochi classics and Haji Saifoos comic Persian ghazals to audiences all over North America."

For someone who believes collaborations are the best way to learn and grow as one gets 'barkat' associated with sharing, she asserts that the same ascertains that one truly gets to experience other worlds musically. "But most importantly your relationships and your community expands and you feel a part of something big and universal."

Ask her about the

secret of the extremely interesting music scene in Pakistan, she admits it sometimes surprises her considering how tough it can get for artists there. "But then I wonder whether the output is exciting for precisely the same reason that it is challenging, which is the lack of a structured industry and a hyper-responsive market. In some ways that allows us to work in our silos and stay focused on our own expression without the burden of imagining success. Creating without a keen focus on the audience is freedom."

With diverse influences including Popular music from the West starting from the '50s, South Asian folk and films, ghazals and Semi-classical music, Pop music from the '60s till the '90s from Turkey besides a whole range of music from Afghanistan and the Middle East, the singer who is also learning from Ustad Naseeruddin Saami says the training in classical has completely changed her life and musical expression.

"The most obvious change is in my voice itself. What it can do and where it can go has expanded. Learning Khayal has transformed my relationship with myself, it's really brought a sense of quiet self-assurance and helped me integrate all of my musical influences into one perspective," she says.

During the Pandemic, Bangash recorded her solo album, with a crew of musicians and producers based out of L.A. Though that one is yet to release, she recording another one. "There is also a collection of regional songs that I am recording based out of Dubai," she concludes.

Jasmin Bhasin: I have lost roles because castings are happening on the basis of social media following



Actor Jasmin Bhasin expresses her desire to make her OTT and Bollywood debut, and how castings now happen on the basis of their social media following.

Actor Jasmin Bhasin has been on a hiatus from the daily soap scene for the past three years, and she reveals it has not been an intentional move for her.

"I would not say that there is a specific intention behind staying away from TV," tells Bhasin, who was last seen in Naagin 4 in 2020, adding, "I have been open to the opportunities. But, since the last few years, I am in the process of transforming into other mediums of entertainment, like OTT space and movies, maybe that's why I

am being missed from the scene. I am working really hard towards it".

When it comes to her web debut, the actor also reveals that she is still waiting for the right script to come her way. Bhasin explains, "I have been planning to enter the OTT space since the last two years, but unfortunately I haven't come across any script which I feel should be my OTT debut, because I have always been really careful in choosing roles."

"Fans hamesha mujhe appreciate karte hain, so they really value and wait to see what I am going to do next, that's why I am looking for a good solid script for my OTT or Bollywood debut. Things are not able to materialise, but I am not going to give up till things don't happen because I don't believe in giving up. I am waiting for it to happen and I'm trying my best," the 33-year-old adds.

What kind of role is she expecting? "I definitely want to get into a space where I get to prove myself as a performer and actor," Bhasin asserts, adding that the castings are now dependent on your social media following. "Because now, I believe that a lot of castings are happening on the basis of your social media following. Somewhere I feel that as an actor who has been doing this for 15 years and acting is my craft, still you lose projects because you are not that popular on social media, it is kind

of disheartening. You have put in years of labour, pain, and sweat, so when you lose good projects which you really want to do only because you just want to act and not make other things a priority," she elaborates.

Ask her if stereotyping might be the reason behind getting less opportunities, she defends the television medium, saying, "Aisa toh nahi hua hai I think. TV actors are kind of stereotyped and put in a box unfortunately, but I strongly feel that we should use it as a strength. Doing television is not easy because we work for 12-15 hours daily. Television actors are kind of pros and can give better output. Television is underestimated, but it is one of the strongest mediums."

Having said that, she quips, "Many times I have also been type-casted and I've lost roles that 'Oh, she has done television, we don't want a television face'. Why not?"

Another thing that she has been waiting for is her projects going on floors. "There are a few projects, but they have been in the pipeline for two years. Things materialise but they don't end up on floors due to some or the other reason. I am just waiting and praying for my stars to align and bring those projects from the pipeline to the floors," shares Bhasin, who was last seen in her Punjabi debut film Honeymoon (2022).

Robert Pattinson has 'deep fear of humiliation'

'Twilight' star Robert Pattinson recently opened up about what factors he takes into consideration before accepting roles in a film or a show.

During a recent conversation with comedian Jordan Firstman for Interview magazine, the actor was asked if he ever had a project that he was just 'not into at all', The Hollywood Reporter reported.

Pattinson responded with 'not really' but explained that he actually has a fear of not being able to fully commit to a role and give it his all, which is something he has to think about before deciding to play a part.

"I have a deep, deep fear of humiliation. And also, you sort of know it's down to you. You can say



it's a shitty script or the director's a dick or blah, blah, blah, but at the end of the day, no one's going to care about the reasons. You're the one who everyone's going to say is lame.

And the vast majority of people will say you're lame even when you tried your best," he said.

In the coming years, Pattinson will be seen in the sequel to 'The Batman'.

According to Variety, a US-based media house, Reeves' 'The Batman Part II' will continue to be a standalone property and fall under the newly branded 'DC Elseworlds' category while Gunn and Safran are creating a new DC Universe that will include the 2025 theatrical release 'Superman: Legacy.'

People across country respond to PM Modi's appeal, participate in hour-long cleanliness drive

Home Minister Amit Shah participated in a cleanliness drive in Ahmedabad; BJP chief JP Nadda also took part in the drive in Delhi's Jhandewalan area

NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (Agencies): People from all walks of life, from politicians to students, participated in an hour-long "shramdaan" on Sunday, responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for a nationwide cleanliness drive.

According to the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, more than 9.20 lakh sites across the country have been adopted for the mega drive.

In a recent episode of "Mann Ki Baat", Modi appealed for "one hour of shramdaan for swachhata" on October 1 by all citizens and said it would be a "Swachhjanjali" to Mahatma Gandhi on the eve of his birth anniversary.

Wielding a broom, Union Home Minister Amit Shah participated in a cleanliness drive in Ahmedabad. BJP chief JP Nadda also took part in the drive in Delhi's Jhandewalan area.

Taking part in the "shramdaan (voluntary labour)", Union Power Minister RK Singh told reporters, "We (Centre) have taken a resolve to make the country clean. It is a big challenge but we will do it." Union ministers and BJP leaders across the country grabbed brooms and



took part in the 'Swachhata hi Seva' campaign.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel participated in a cleanliness drive in Ahmedabad. BJP MP Dinesh Sharma, who also took part in a clean drive, said "swachhata (cleanliness)" has become the face of the country.

Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari took volunteered for a cleanliness activity in New Delhi.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi said it held cleanliness drives at 500 locations across the national capital.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, urging people to join

the drive, said in a post on X, "Come, let's create a new history! At 10 am today, let's volunteer for an hour, paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi through cleanliness." "Scan or visit local cleanliness programmes to join. Dream of a #GarbageFreeIndia Together, we'll make it happen," he said.

Cricketers such as Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma also appealed to the people to come together for "Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath" and join the largest citizen-led movement to strengthen the resolve towards cleanliness.

BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi said, "We hope that people stay connected with the Swachh

Bharat Mission that was launched by PM Modi." Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who took part in a 'Swachhata Pakhwada' in Lucknow, said such events are being organised across the country on the prime minister's appeal.

He appealed to everyone to participate in the drive.

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said NGOs, market associations, self-help groups, faith groups, trade bodies and private sector companies, among others, volunteered for the "shramdaan" in more than 22,000 market areas, 10,000 water bodies, 7,000 bus stands/toll plazas, 1,000 gaushalas, 300 zoos and wildlife areas and various other locations in rural and urban India.

Among the states, Uttar Pradesh adopted more than a lakh sites for cleanliness drives while Maharashtra will conduct the programme in over 62,000 locations, including the beaches, religious places, schools, colleges and water bodies.

In Telangana, temples of historical significance were cleaned during the drive.

PM Modi Mourns Tamil Nadu Bus Accident Victims, Announces Rs 2 Lakh Aid For Families



CHENNAI, Oct 1 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday expressed anguish over the Nilgiris bus accident in Tamil Nadu on September 30 that left 9 persons dead.

The PM also announced an aid of ₹ 2 lakh each to the kin of the victims.

"Pained by the loss of lives due to a bus accident near Coonoor in Nilgiris district, Tamil Nadu. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. I pray that the injured recover soon. An ex-gratia of ₹ 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given

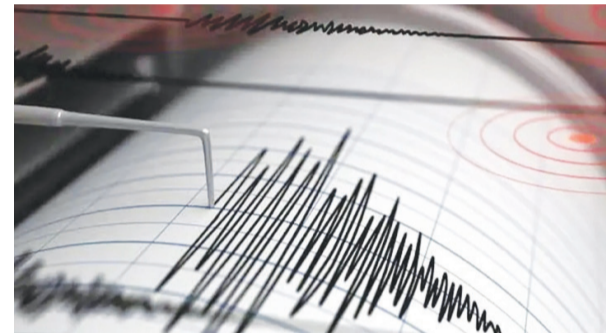
to the next of kin of each deceased. Those injured would be given ₹ 50,000: PM @narendramodi," the PM's official X handle said.

On Saturday, a Tenkasi-bound tourist bus fell into a gorge and toppled after the driver lost control of the vehicle, killing 8 people.

The toll went up to nine with the death of one more woman today.

The victims had arrived in the hilly district for a pleasure trip and were returning home when the mishap occurred.

3.1 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Assam's Dhubri, No Deaths Reported



DHUBRI, Oct 1 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 3.1 occurred in Assam's Dhubri district in the early hours of Sunday, an official statement said.

National Center for Seismology said that the earthquake

occurred at 3:01 am at a depth of 17 Km.

Taking to X (former Twitter), the National Center for Seismology (NCS) said, "Earthquake of Magnitude:3.1, Occurred on 01-10-2023, 03:01:33 IST, Lat: 26.08 and Long: 90.05,

Depth: 17 Km, Location: Dhubri, Assam, India." Earlier, an earthquake of magnitude 3.0 jolted Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district on Monday.

"Earthquake of Magnitude:3.0, Occurred on 25-09-2023, 08:35:54 IST, Lat: 31.07 & Long: 77.98, Depth: 5 Km, Location: Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand, India," NCS said in a post on X. Mild earthquakes measuring 2.8 and 2.1 on the Richter Scale struck Himachal Pradesh's Mandi and Chamba districts in September.

Manipur needs power-sharing arrangement to unite all communities: Netaji's nephew Sugata Bose

KOLKATA, Oct 1 (Agencies): Describing the situation in Manipur as "tragic", Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's grand-nephew Prof Sugata Bose called for working out a "just power-sharing arrangement" in the northeastern state in order to bring all three communities—Meiteis, Kukis and Nagas—on the same page.

Bose, who was earlier a Lok Sabha MP, pointed out in an interview to PTI that members of all the three communities had joined Netaji's INA in 1944 and fought shoulder to shoulder in the battlefields of Bishnupur and Ukhrul districts in an advance into India.

He said there was a need "to work out a just power-sharing arrangement in Manipur (which would engage all three communities and address their grievances)."

"We need to draw upon the best legacy of the past armed struggle against the British to

bring the three communities together again," added Bose, who holds the Harvard University's Gardner chair in history. The Meiteis account for 53 per cent of the state's population and live mostly in the Imphal valley. Tribals – Nagas and Kukis – constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts surrounding Imphal.

"The situation in Manipur is truly tragic... for short-term political gains, one community has been played against the other. That kind of political game must stop," Netaji's grand-nephew said.

For the last five months, Meitei and Kuki communities have rioted against each other, resulting in the deaths of more than 175 people. Thousands have been rendered homeless and forced to live in makeshift refugee camps.

Initial grievances and accusations include bulldozing of villages, which had sprung up on forest lands, and an Imphal



High Court order asking the state government to send a recommendation to the Centre on demands for scheduled tribe status for Meiteis, which the tribal communities resented. These were compounded by rival accusations of ethnic cleansing and involvement in the drug trade by both communities.

"Manipur, along with the rest of the northeast, should be given a voice in decision-making at the Centre," Bose said.

He recounted that a large number of Manipuri youth from Kuki, Meitei and Naga communities joined the INA in its march towards Imphal. Of these volunteer soldiers, 15 Manipuri young

men and two women joined other INA troops in the retreat to Rangoon, suffering hardships as they fought a gallant rear guard action against seasoned British troops.

"These freedom fighters from Manipur included M Koireng Singh, the first chief minister of Manipur after Independence," Bose pointed out.

INA's advance nearly 80 years ago had been three-pronged – the Gandhi brigade led by Col Inayat Jan Kiyani moved into the hills of Palal and Tengnoupal, east of Imphal; Col Shah Nawaz Khan led the Subhas Brigade into Ukhrul, while Col Shau-

kat Malik led the Bahadur group into Moirang in Bishnupur district, just 40 km from Imphal town.

Colonel Shaukat Malik raised the Tricolor at Moirang in Bishnupur district on April 14, 1944 with help from Koering Singh and Naqi Ahmed Chaudhary, a Manipuri Muslim.

There is also a version that Netaji Subhas Bose visited an INA camp near Churachandpur, a largely Kuki-dominated town in July 1944, to visit his frontline troops and interacted with villagers there.

The region where INA first entered the country has since then been largely a backwater for independent India. Cut off from the rest of India by Bangladesh, except through the 'Chicken's Neck Corridor' in West Bengal's Siliguri, north-east India has faced insurgencies, race riots compounded with increasing population pressure and few job opportunities.

AFSPA extended in 4 districts of Assam, withdrawn from 4 others

GUWAHATI, Oct 1 (Agencies): The Assam Police on Sunday said the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act or AFSPA has been extended in four districts of the state for six more months.

At the Assam Police Day 2023 celebrations here, DGP Gyanendra Pratap Singh said the 'disturbed area' tag, which allows enforcement of the AFSPA, has, however, been withdrawn from four other districts.

"From today, only four districts in Assam will have AFSPA. These are Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar and Charaideo," he said.

The AFSPA has been withdrawn from Jorhat, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao with effect from October 1, Singh said.

The Assam Government had last extended the 'disturbed area' notification under the AFSPA for another six months with effect from April 1 in these eight districts.

The AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone without any prior warrant, besides giving immunity from arrest and prosecution to the forces if they shoot someone dead.

I-T Department attaches second property in benami assets case against Mukhtar Ansari

LUCKNOW, Oct 1 (Agencies): The Income Tax department has attached a second land property worth about Rs 10 crore in Lucknow as part of its ongoing alleged benami assets possession probe against gangster-politician Mukhtar Ansari and his family.

The department's Benami Assets Investigation wing, headquartered here, has codenamed the comprehensive probe Operation Panther. It has found that the 'benamidar (in whose name a benami property is standing)' of the 3,234-square feet plot at 13-C/3 in Lucknow's Dalibagh area is a Ghazipur-based woman named Tanveer Sahar.

Official records accessed by PTI show that the department attached the plot under Section 24(3) read with Rule-5 of the Prohibition of Benami Properties Transaction Act on September 29 as it found that the linked people are "very influential" and that the property is located in a prime location and can be disposed of clandestinely.

While the plot's stamp valuation is just over Rs 76 lakh, official sources pegged its market value at about Rs 10 crore.

In April, the department attached

the first property in the case against Ansari, located at Mauja Kapurpur NZA under Sadar tehsil in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur district, and identified his alleged associate—Ganesh Dutt Mishra—as the benamidar of this about Rs 12 crore-worth land.

The taxman unearthed the latest asset (in Lucknow's Dalibagh) after prolonged questioning of Mishra and records obtained from the Uttar Pradesh Police and the revenue department and financial documents from various agencies, including banks.

It found Mishra mortgaged the Dalibagh property as collateral for a Rs 1.60 crore loan taken from the Union Bank of India in 2014 by a company named Aaghaaz Project and Engineering Private Limited, whose shareholders were Ansari's wife Afsan Ansari, son Abbas Ansari and father-in-law Jamshed Raza. The property was released by the bank after the loan was paid back and it was transferred to the alleged benamidar Sahar in November 2020.

The tax department suspects that Sahar—the wife of Niyaz Ahmad and a resident of Mahanagar in

Lucknow—is an associate/aide of the Ansari family.

The Income Tax department found that Sahar has never filed an Income Tax Return and did not have a sufficient source of income to purchase the Dalibagh plot that has been attached under the anti-benami law, apart from a few others. The department concluded that Sahar was a "dummy owner or benamidar" of the property. The tax officials also summoned her for questioning but she is yet to depose before them.

Income Tax department sources had earlier said that they were working to attach about 20-21 more alleged benami properties of Ansari's family, estimated to have a market value of over Rs 100 crore, as part of Operation Panther. Ansari, lodged in the Banda jail, faces 61 criminal cases in different states. He has so far been convicted in six. A Varanasi court in June sentenced him to life in prison for the murder of Awadhesh Rai, Congress leader Ajay Rai's brother, more than 30 years ago.

In April, he was sentenced to 10 years in jail by a court in Ghazipur under the Gangsters Act.

IMD issues 'red' alert for Goa, predicts heavy rain

PANAJI, Oct 1 (Agencies): The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday issued a 'red' alert for Goa, forecasting heavy rain in the coastal state over the next 24 hours.

The nowcast weather warning issued by the IMD predicted "moderate to heavy spells of rain accompanied with winds of speed 40 to 50 kilometres per hour gusting to 60 kmph."

The IMD said clouds were present in the morning over Pernem, Tiswadi, Bardez, Bicholim and Sattari (all in North Goa district) talukas of the state.

"More clouds are approaching from the Arabian Sea. More talukas are also likely to get

affected as clouds are moving generally in the north-eastern direction," the IMD said.

The State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) has activated its control rooms in both the North and South Goa districts.

"Extremely heavy rains are forecast for Goa in the next 24 hours. Members of the public are advised not to venture into waterlogged or flood-prone areas," the SDMA said.

Drishiti Marine, the state government-appointed lifesaving agency, advised people not to venture into the sea due to the high water levels and rough weather conditions.

Pro-China Opposition candidate Mohamed Muiz wins Maldives presidency

PM Modi congratulates Mohamed Muizzu

MALE (MALDIVES), Oct 1 (Agencies): Opposition candidate Mohamed Muiz won the Maldives presidential runoff on Saturday, securing more than 53 per cent of the vote, local media reported.

The election has turned into a virtual referendum on which regional power — India or China — will have the biggest influence in the Indian Ocean archipelago nation.

Mihaaru News reported that incumbent President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih had received 46 per cent of the vote and that Muiz had won by more than 18,000 votes. Official results were expected on Sunday.

"With today's result we have got the opportunity to build the country's future. The strength to ensure the freedom of Maldives," Muiz said in a statement after his victory. "It's time we put our differences aside and come together. We need to be a peaceful society."

Muiz also requested that Solih transfer former president Abdulla Yameen to house arrest from prison.

It was a surprise win for Muiz, who entered the fray as an underdog. He was named only as a fallback candidate closer to the nomination deadline after the Supreme Court prevented Yameen from running because he is serving a prison sentence for money laundering and corruption. Yameen's supporters say he's been jailed for political reasons.

"Today's result is a reflection of the patriotism of our people. A call on all our neighbours and bilateral partners to fully respect our independence and sovereignty," said Mohamed Shareef,



a top official of Muiz's party.

He said it was also a mandate for Muiz to resurrect the economy and for Yameen's release.

Neither Muiz nor Solih got more than 50 per cent in the first round of voting earlier in September.

Solih, who was elected president in 2018, was battling allegations by Muiz that he had allowed India an unchecked presence in the country. Muiz's party, the People's National Congress, is viewed as heavily pro-China.

Solih has insisted that the Indian military's presence in the Maldives was only to build a dockyard under an agreement between the two governments and that his country's sovereignty won't be violated.

Muiz promised that if he won the presidency, he would remove Indian troops from the Maldives and balance the country's trade relations, which he said were heavily in India's favour.

Ahmed Shaheed, a former foreign minister of Maldives, termed the election verdict as a public revolt against the govern-

ment's failure to meet economic and governance expectations rather than concerns over Indian influence.

"I don't think India was at all in the people's minds," Saheed said.

An engineer, Muiz had served as the housing minister for seven years. He was mayor of Male, the capital, when he was chosen to run for president.

Solih suffered a setback closer to the election when Mohamed Nasheed, a charismatic former president, broke away from his Maldivian Democratic Party and fielded his own candidate in the first round. He decided to remain neutral in the second round.

"Nasheed's departure took the motherboard away from the MDP," Shaheed said.

Yameen, leader of the People's National Congress, made the Maldives a part of China's Belt and Road initiative during his presidency from 2013 to 2018. The initiative is meant to build railroads, ports, and highways to expand trade — and China's influence — across Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Despite the rhetoric, Muiz is unlikely to change the foreign policy of affording an important place to India — rather, opposition to Chinese projects is likely to lessen, evening power balances out, Shaheed said.

The Maldives is made up of 1,200 coral islands in the Indian Ocean located by the main shipping route between the East and the West.

"These five years have been the most peaceful and prosperous five years we've ever seen. We have had political peace, opposition candidates are not jailed every day," said Abdul Muhusin, who said he voted for Solih in the runoff on Saturday.

Another voter, Saeed Hussein, said he chose Muiz because "I want the Indian military to leave Maldives."

"I don't believe the Maldivian military has any control. Only Muiz can change these things and make the Indian military leave Maldives," he said.

There were more than 2,82,000 eligible voters and turnout was 78 per cent an hour before the polling stations closed. AP

PM Modi congratulates Mohamed Muizzu

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated Mohamed Muizzu on being elected as president of the Maldives.

In a post on X, he said, "India remains committed to strengthening the time-tested India-Maldives bilateral relationship and enhancing our overall cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region." Muizzu defeated incumbent Mohamed Solih to become president of the island nation.

New Zealand Prime Minister tests positive for Covid-19, to work 'via zoom'



SYDNEY, Oct 1 (Agencies): New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins has tested positive for COVID-19 and will work remotely while isolating, his office said on Sunday, two weeks out from a general election.

Hipkins has cold and flu symptoms that began on Saturday and would isolate for five days or

until he returned a negative test, the prime minister's office said in a statement.

"He will continue with engagements he can undertake via zoom," the statement said.

The positive test will keep Hipkins temporarily on the campaign sidelines ahead of the Oct. 14 general election, as his struggling

incumbent Labour party seeks to win another term in office.

Hipkins on Sunday was due attend a Samoan church service in Auckland, but a spokesperson said Deputy Prime Minister Carmel Sepuloni would attend in his place.

The prime minister's office said further updates on his schedule "will be provided in due course".

The government lifted all remaining COVID-19 requirements in August, but health authorities still recommend that people stay home for five days if feeling unwell or if they have tested positive to Covid-19.

Iran ready for 'anti-terrorism' cooperation with Pakistan

TEHRAN, Oct 1 (Agencies): A top Iranian military official has said that Iran's armed forces are ready for any form of cooperation with Pakistan in the "all-out fight" against terrorism.

Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Mohammad Baqeri made the remarks on Saturday in a message to Pakistani Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir to extend his sympathy over a deadly "terrorist" bomb blast at a religious gathering in Balochistan, which

killed at least 50.

Baqeri expressed condolences to Pakistan's Army chief, armed forces, government and people, and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the tragic incident, Xinhua news agency reported, citing the semi-official Fars news agency.

An explosion occurred near a mosque on Friday during a religious gathering in the Kora Khan area of the Mastung district in the province.

The blast has killed

at least 50 people, and more than 50 others sustained injuries, according to police and health officials.

The preliminary reports and police investigation showed that it was a suicide attack. No group has claimed responsibility for the blast yet.

In a message addressed to his Pakistani counterpart Arif Alvi, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi condoled with the Pakistani government and people, and condemned the "terrorist" bomb attack.

Australia Reels Under Sweltering Heat Amid Bushfire Threats



SYDNEY, Oct 1 (Agencies): Australia's southeast on Sunday sweltered in a heat wave that raised the risk of bushfires and prompted authorities to issue fire bans for large swaths of New South Wales state.

The nation's weather forecaster said temperatures would be up to 12 degrees Celsius (53.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above average in some areas, with Sydney, capital of Australia's most populous state New South Wales, set to hit 36C (96.8F).

At Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport, the temperature was already

28C (82.4F) at 10 a.m. (2300 GMT), more than five degrees above the September mean maximum temperature, according to forecaster data.

Australia faces a high-risk bushfire season as it experiences an El Nino weather event, recently announced, which is typically associated with extreme events like wildfires, cyclones and droughts.

State Emergency Services Minister Jihad Dib said the "scorching" heat lifted the risk for bushfires in the week ahead.

"Not only is it hot, it's dry and it's windy and those conditions combined are the perfect storm," Dib said, announcing the start an official bushfire danger period.

Fire authorities on Sunday issued nine fire total bans for parts of the state in a bid to reduce the chance of bushfires.

Australia's last two fire seasons have been quiet compared to the catastrophic 2019-2020 "Black Summer" of bushfires that destroyed an area the size of Turkey and killed 33 people.

Former PM Robert Fico on course to win Slovak election as most districts report

BRATISLAVA, Oct 1 (Agencies): Slovakia's leftist former Prime Minister Robert Fico was on course to beat his progressive rival in a parliamentary election after a campaign in which he pledged to end military aid to Ukraine, partial results showed on Sunday.

With 90% of voting districts reporting in the Saturday election, Fico's SMER-SSD party led with 23.69% of the vote. The liberal Progressive Slovakia (PS) followed with 15.68% and the HLAS party, which could become the kingmaker for forming the next government, was third with 15.43%.

Former Fico colleague and HLAS leader Peter Pellegrini kept his options open on future coalitions in televised comments as results became clearer.

A government led by Fico and his SMER-SSD party would see NATO member Slovakia joining Hungary in challenging the European Union's consensus on



support for Ukraine, just as the bloc looks to maintain unity in opposing Russia's invasion.

"We do not want to evaluate everything, so we will wait for the final count," said Robert Kalinak, a SMER-SSD candidate and long-time Fico ally, adding the party would comment on the full results later on Sunday.

Exit polls had favoured PS as the winner, but projections from two Slovak news sites based on results with 90% of districts reporting pegged Fico as the winner with a margin of about 5 or 6 percentage points.

The PS party has advocated maintaining

Slovakia's strong backing for Ukraine, and would also likely follow a liberal line within the EU on issues such as majority voting to make the bloc more flexible, green policies and LGBT rights.

The first party across the line was expected to get a mandate from President Zuzana Caputova to lead talks on forming a parliamentary majority and, if successful, a government.

The final districts to report, from large cities, were expected to favour PS, but the gap behind Fico appeared too large to bridge.

PS leader Michal Simecka did not give up hope he could form

the next government, depending how possible smaller allies end up.

"It remains our aim for Slovakia to have after this election a stable pro-European government that will care for the rule of law and which begins to solve and invest into areas key for our future," Simecka, a former reporter and Oxford graduate, told supporters.

With no party projected to win an outright majority, forming a new government will hinge on results for more than half a dozen smaller parties, from libertarians to far-right extremists.

Any coalition that PS could potentially form would likely need to include more right-wing or socially conservative parties, which would blunt its socially progressive and EU-integration drive.

The incoming government in the nation of 5.5 million will take over a ballooning budget deficit forecast to be the highest in the euro zone.

Fico has ridden on dissatisfaction with a bickering centre-right coalition, whose government collapsed last year, triggering the election six months early. In campaigning, he stressed concern about a rise in the number of migrants passing through Slovakia to Western Europe.

Fico's views reflect traditionally warm sentiments towards Russia among many Slovaks, which have gathered strength on social media since the Ukraine war started.

He has also pledged to end military supplies to Ukraine and strive for peace talks - a line close to that of Hungary's leader, Viktor Orban, but rejected by Ukraine and its allies, who say this would only encourage Russia.

The far-right Republika party, which was seen as a possible ally for Fico but unacceptable to others, may not win any seats, partial results and media projections showed.

US Senator threatens to block military aid to Egypt on human rights ground

WASHINGTON, Oct 1 (Agencies): The chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee vowed to block military aid and arms sales to Egypt if it does not take concrete steps to improve human rights in the country.

Democratic US Senator Ben Cardin issued the threat in a statement, saying "it is imperative that we continue to hold the government of Egypt, and all govern-

ments, accountable for their human rights violations."

The announcement came a day after US Representative Gregory Meeks, the ranking Democrat on the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, said he had asked the State Department to pause a portion of military aid to Egypt conditioned on human rights criteria.

The stepped-up pres-

sure follows the September 22 federal indictment of the then-chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Democratic Senator Bob Menendez, tied partly to allegations that he had accepted bribes in exchange for wielding his influence to aid Egypt's government.

Menendez denies wrongdoing and has pleaded not guilty.

The Egyptian embassy in Washington did not



immediately respond to a request for comment on Cardin's announcement.

Cardin, who replaced Menendez as head of the Senate panel, said Egypt must show

progress in efforts to accelerate the release of political prisoners and "provide space" for human rights defenders, civil society advocates, political opposition and independent media.

"I intend to exercise fully the committee's oversight responsibilities and my authorities to block future foreign military funds as well as the sale of arms to the government of Egypt if it does not take concrete,

meaningful, and sustainable steps to improve the human rights conditions in its country," he said.

Washington has long provided Egypt with large amounts of military and other aid, ever since the Arab world's most populous nation signed a peace deal with neighbouring Israel in 1979.

Much of the aid has been withheld in recent years over concerns about human rights

abuses under the government of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

But President Joe Biden's administration announced this month it had decided to waive human rights restrictions on \$235 million of the aid, citing security benefits to the US. It is currently withholding \$85 million of the aid, a fraction of the \$1.3 billion a year allocated to Egypt.

Booth-level workers are the key of victory for BJP: Rekha Mahajan

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) under the leadership of its president Jammu South Rekha Mahajan is all set to intensify the "Mandal Pravasi" abhiyaan in Gandhi Nagar Mandal of Jammu South to enhance the party at booth level. The meeting was held at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar Jammu. The main objective of the meeting is to verify the booths of Gandhi Nagar Mandal.

The meeting was organized under the presidentship of Mandal President Gandhi Nagar Bharat Bhushan, Prabhari and District Vice President Narinder Koki, District Secretary, and Incharge Mandal pravasi yojna Parmod Singh Chib, Mandal General Secre-



tary Rachit Khosla and Suraj Raina, Councilors Rahul Kumar, Surjit Choudhary, and the booth members were present in the meeting. Speaking on occasion, Rekha Mahajan asserted that booth-level workers are the backbone of the party. She said the booth workers should reach out to the people and contact them to apprise them of the achievements of the Modi-led government.

Rekha also discussed threadbare discussions with party cadres and urged them to do the task effectively in a time-bound manner. She also prompted all party functionaries to work with full enthusiasm with the common masses. Rekha Mahajan holds these booth-level meetings at regular intervals in all mandals of Jammu South to have a detailed analysis of the party's ongoing

development and political policies, implementation of public welfare schemes, formulation of important strategies and to discuss the forthcoming party programs. Rekha added, that the saffron party always takes all possible steps for the welfare of the grass-level workers, she also expressed that polling booth-level workers are the key to the success of the Bharatiya Janata Party,

the lifeline of a party and ground-level workers keep it alive by putting in their hard efforts. Rekha said the grassroots level workers are also the backbone of the party and their welfare is the party's duty. Rekha stated that she had seen the grass-level workers putting in their sincere efforts for the party's win during elections and the same spirit should be continued by them in the forthcoming elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, "BJP keeps the workers happy by redressing their issues timely", she said, adding that it is the duty of the workers also to keep the party alive by their efforts.

Mandal Pravasi Incharge Parmod Singh Chib verified all the booth-level workers.

Abhinash gets Bronze Medal at 24th RSFI National Rope Skipping Championship 2023

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: Abhinash Singh Sodhi, the son of Randheer Singh Sodhi (SSP J&K Police) and Neetu Bali (Founder & CEO, Sunder Enterprises), hailing from Jodhamal Public School, Jammu, has clinched the prestigious bronze medal in the U/11 age category for the "One Leg Switch Single Bounce 30 seconds" event at the 24th RSFI National Rope Skipping Championship 2023. This esteemed championship, organized by the Rope Skipping Federation of India, is currently underway in Naisik, Maharashtra.



Abhinash's remarkable achievement is a testament to his dedication, perseverance, and exceptional skill in rope skipping. He received expert training and guidance from Danish Sharma, Chief Coach of J&K Rope Skipping. The Rope Skipping Association of Jammu

& Kashmir extends its heartfelt congratulations to Abhinash Singh Sodhi for his outstanding performance and for bringing honor to the region. His success in the national championship is a source of pride and inspiration for aspiring athletes in Jammu & Kashmir.

Swachhata Hi Seva Abhiyan gains momentum in RS Pura Block

TOP NEWS REPORT

RS PURA, Oct 1: In alignment with the nationwide "Swachhata Hi Seva Abhiyan" campaign, an extensive cleanliness drive was conducted at the Panchayat level in RS Pura Block. This initiative saw active participation from Panchayat representatives, common citizens, and school students alike.

Under the leadership of Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh Saini, Gandali Panchayat of RS Pura Block witnessed a robust cleanliness campaign in every ward of the Panchayat. This endeavor garnered significant volunteer support, with citizens contributing their efforts towards a cleaner environment.

Officials from the Rural Development Department also attended the program, demonstrating their commitment to the Swachhata Hi Seva Abhiyan.

Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh Saini underscored the importance of the cleanliness drive, emphasizing its direct impact on public health. He acknowl-



edged that diseases are often linked to unclean environments and urged the community to actively participate in maintaining cleanliness. He stressed that the campaign should not be limited to a single day but should continue daily in every locality to ensure the sustainability of a clean environment.

He highlighted the "Swachhata Hi Seva Abhiyan" initiated

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which has gained momentum across the country. It has inspired active participation from various sections of society, including local Panchayats, to raise awareness about the importance of cleanliness.

Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh Saini expressed his gratitude for the enthusiastic participation of citizens and emphasized

the need for continuous efforts to promote cleanliness and hygiene. He further noted that the campaign aimed to educate people about the significance of cleanliness.

Among those who were present include Pyarelal, Pawan Singh, Satya Devi, Somanath Sardar, Darshan Singh and a number of citizens, including women.

BJP can't evade elections forever: Rajesh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: The Jammu Warriors Front (JWF) has leveled accusations against the BJP, alleging their avoidance of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and the perpetuation of direct Central rule. During a party meeting held on Sunday, JWF Chairman Rajesh Gupta addressed the people in Jammu and Kashmir, leaving them unrepresented in every forum.

Gupta criticized the BJP's denial of democratic rights to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and raised questions about how long they intended to postpone assembly elections and the restoration of statehood. He emphatically demanded the early holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, followed by



the restoration of Statehood, asserting that the BJP could not evade elections indefinitely. "They (the BJP) cannot escape from elections forever. If not today or tomorrow, one day they have to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir," he affirmed.

Gupta emphasized that the JWF would continue its fight for constitutional guarantees, land and job protection, and the preservation of the people's rights. The party is committed to ensuring justice for the people and exposing political exploitation by the BJP.

Highlighting the BJP's reluctance to conduct assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Gupta pointed out,

"After the revocation of the special status and statehood of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019, the Centre promised to hold elections in the newly-formed Union Territory. The BJP, in collaboration with the Election Commission, is denying democratic rights to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP doesn't want elections here because its support base has shrunk."

JWF firmly believed that granting full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and conducting elections, allowing people to elect their representatives instead of being ruled by Delhi, is the only way forward to guarantee full democratic rights. Gupta concluded, "Now it's for the Prime Minister and the BJP to decide whether to hold a meeting or accept the demands of the Jammu Warriors Front in the interest of the constitution and the people of the state."

FROM PAGE 1

Heroin worth crores recovered in Ramban, two arrested

Substances (NDPS) Act was registered at Banihal police station and investigation set into motion, Singh said.

"This operation was developed on intelligence generated by SSP Ramban and her team who have been continuously waging war against drug smugglers and peddlers," the ADGP said.

He said a large number of notorious peddlers and smugglers have already been booked by the team of Ramban police.

"A total of 104 cases (under NDPS Act) have been registered in 2022 while 36 such cases were registered in 2023 till date following the recovery of 2,500 kg poppy straw, 10 kg charas, 200 grams heroin and 200 tablets," Singh said, adding 158 accused have been arrested and three detained under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in NDPS Act.

Banihal Station House Officer Mohd Afzal Wani identified the arrested smugglers as Sarabjeet Singh of Jhalandhar and Honey Basra of Phagwara in Punjab.

While three kilograms of the narcotic was found hidden on the top of the vehicle, 27 kgs were recovered from their luggage, he said.

Wani said the smugglers tried to escape when signalled to stop and were chased and subsequently arrested.

The officials said the high-grade cocaine was smuggled from across the border and being taken from north Kashmir to Punjab.

Police arrest 403 drug peddlers, recover drugs Worth Rs 12 Cr in Baramulla

Rs 2.1 crore, comprising three houses, three vehicles, and cash amounting to Rs

1.2 crore, have also been attached by the police.

The concerted efforts of the Baramulla Police have yielded a notable reduction in drug-peddling cases.

During the first half of the year, from January to June, there was an increase in cases, with numbers surging from 10 to 40 cases in April alone. However, this trend has reversed from July onwards, with 18 cases registered in July, followed by 15 in August and another 18 cases in September.

Citizens of the district have shown utmost faith and satisfaction in the action of the police against drugs, and they have expressed their total support to the police.

Baramulla Police remains steadfast in its commitment to confront drug smugglers and to seize both movable and immovable property used for illicit trafficking within the district.

Police have urged the general public of the district to come forward with information about drug peddlers in their areas in order to eradicate the menace of drugs from society.

Major Cache of Arms, Ammo recovered in Machil

effort of Kupwara Police and the Indian Army was executed with precision and dedication, reflecting their determination to safeguard the nation."

"During the exhaustive search operation, a natural cave yielded a treasure trove of arms and ammunition that had been illicitly transported across the Line of Control (LoC)," reads the statement adding the haul included; 1 AK Series Rifle, 4 AK Magazines, 2 UBGL (Under Barrel Grenade Launcher), 2 Hand Grenades, 26 UBGL Grenades, 2088 rounds of 7.62 mm AK ammunition, 1 Silencer (Sound Suppressor), 900 grams of PEK (Potassium Nitrate), 20 No.27 Detonators, 19 Commercial Detonators with wire, 2 Booster

Charges, 2 Explosive Devices (exact type yet to be determined), 10 Modified Mechanism Devices, 4 9V Batteries and 1 ICom Radio Set.

"This astounding discovery is a testament to the vigilance and proactive stance adopted by the Police and Army in curbing the inflow of arms and ammunition to the hands of terrorists operating in the region. It highlights the commitment of our forces to thwart any attempt to disrupt peace and security in the valley", reads the statement.

"The recovery operation demonstrates the dedication of our security forces to protect our borders and ensure the safety of our citizens. Their relentless efforts in intelligence gathering and swift action have undoubtedly made our nation more secure", concludes the statement.

Commercial LPG prices hiked by Rs 209

Rs 112,419.33, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

The increase comes on back of the steepest-ever 14.1 per cent increase (Rs 13,911.07 per kl) effected on September 1, and a 8.5 per cent or Rs 7,728.38 per kl increase on August 1.

The fourth straight increase in prices of jet fuel, which makes up for 40 per cent of an airline's operating cost, will increase the burden on already financially strained airlines.

On July 1, ATF price had gone up by 1.65 per cent or Rs 1,476.79 per kl. In four increases, ATF prices have gone up by a record Rs 29,391.08 per kl.

Alongside, oil firms raised the price of commercial LPG – the one used in establishments such as hotels and restaurants – by Rs 209.

A 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder will now cost Rs 1,731.50 in the national capital and Rs 1,684 in Mumbai.

The increase reserves most of the Rs 157.5 per cylinder cut in commercial LPG price effected on September 1 and Rs 100 cut effected from August 1.

Saudi contract price (CP), the benchmark used for pricing of LPG, has increased following a firming up trend in crude oil prices witnessed in last few weeks over supply concerns.

Oil companies, which had on August 30, cut domestic LPG rates by Rs 200 per 14.2-kg cylinder, did not change the price of 14.2-kg cylinders.

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revise cooking gas and ATF prices on the 1st of every month based on the average international price in the previous month.

Petrol and diesel prices continued to remain on freeze for a record 18th month in a row. Petrol costs Rs 96.72 per litre in the national capital and diesel comes for Rs 89.62 per litre.

State-owned fuel retailers are supposed to revise petrol and diesel prices daily, based on a 15-day rolling average of benchmark international fuel prices, but they haven't done that since April 6, 2022.

Prices were last changed on May 22, when the government cut excise duty to give relief to consumers from a spike in retail rates that followed a surge in international oil prices.

J&K Govt suspends two police officers

Headquarters Kashmir, during the period of suspension," reads the order.

All officers, Staff of Hazratbal Shrine suspended for negligence of duties

negligence of the concerned staff had created a lot of inconvenience to the devotees.

"Despite repeated orders and instructions from the officers and the ground staff con-

cerned have failed to provide adequate facilities to the devotees. In view of this all the officers and the staff of Hazratbal shrine have been placed under suspension with immediate effect for the grave negligence in their duties," reads the order.

The order stated that inquiry team headed by the chairperson has been constituted to probe into the issue.

84-year-old man transforms regular bicycle into e-cycle using solar power

serves as an inspiring example of how individuals, regardless of age, can contribute to a greener and cleaner planet.

His dedication to sustainability, innovation, and self-reliance embodies the spirit of progress and environmental responsibility that society needs to embrace in the modern era.

Munshi Ram's story is an inspiration to us all. It shows that we can all make a difference in the fight for a cleaner and greener future, no matter how old we are or what resources we have.

Traffic advisory issued for Kashmir Marathon-2023 on Monday

Chandpora, Taibal, Zakura, Habbak, and Hazratbal Road. Those approaching Lal Chowk from Ganderbal/Nagbal are encouraged to take the 90 feet Soura road or Zakura-Hazratbal Road. People are urged to avoid unnecessary travel on Boulevard Road during the marathon's peak hours from 5:00 AM to 9:00 AM. Medical emergencies and travelers heading to Srinagar Airport will be permitted to use the Foreshore-Dargah-Khanyar Road.

Why the US job market has defied rising interest rates and expectations of high unemployment

Grim forecasts from economists had predicted that as the Federal Reserve jacked up its benchmark rate ever higher, consumers and businesses would curb spending.

WASHINGTON, Oct 1 (Agencies): Last year's spike in inflation, to the highest level in four decades, was painful enough for American households. Yet the cure — much higher interest rates, to cool spending and hiring — was expected to bring even more pain.

Grim forecasts from economists had predicted that as the Federal Reserve jacked up its benchmark rate ever higher, consumers and businesses would curb spending, companies would slash jobs and unemployment would spike as high as 7% or more — twice its level when the Fed began tightening credit.

Yet so far, to widespread relief, the reality has been anything but: As interest rates have surged, inflation has tumbled from its peak of 9.1% in June 2022 to 3.7%. Yet the unemployment rate, at a still-low 3.8%, has scarcely budged since March 2022, when the Fed began imposing a series of 11 rate hikes at the fastest pace in decades.

If such trends continue, the central bank may achieve a rare and difficult "soft landing" — the taming of inflation without triggering a deep recession. Such an outcome would be far different from the last time inflation spiked, in the 1970s and early 1980s. The Fed chair at the time, Paul Volcker, attacked inflation by escalating the central bank's key short-term rate above 19%. The result? Unemployment shot to 10.8%, which at the time marked its highest level since World War II.

A year ago, in a high-profile speech, Chair Jerome Powell warned that the Fed was prepared to be similarly aggressive, saying its rate hikes would cause "some pain" in the form of higher unemployment. The Fed, Powell said pointedly, would "keep at it," a play on the title of Volcker's autobiography, "Keeping It It."

Over time, as the job market has displayed surprising resilience, Powell has adopted a more benign tone. At a news conference last week, he suggested that a soft landing remains a "possible," if not guaranteed, outcome.

"That's really what we've been seeing," he said. "Progress without higher unemployment, for now."

How have the Fed's rate hikes managed to help substantially slow inflation without also causing dire consequences? And can the job market and the economy maintain their durability even with the Fed intending to keep borrowing rates at a peak well into 2024?

Here are some reasons for the economy's unexpected resilience and a look at whether it might endure:

Replenished supplies have helped cool inflation

The idea that defeating high inflation would require sharply higher unemployment is based on a long-time economic model



that may prove ill-suited for the post-pandemic episode.

Claudia Sahm, a former Fed economist, suggested that those who assumed that surging unemployment was a necessary price to pay for conquering inflation believed that the price spikes of the past 2 1/2 years were driven mostly by overheated demand. Shut-in consumers did ramp up their spending on patio furniture, exercise bikes and home office equipment as stimulus checks landed in their bank accounts.

But to quell demand-fueled inflation, the Fed's policies would have needed to crush spending, causing sales to plunge and forcing businesses to cut jobs. Yet inflation has cooled even as Americans as a whole have continued to spend freely on shopping, traveling and entertainment.

"The fact that we have the economy healing without unemployment moving up, without consumption slowing a lot — that suggests that really the driver of this was something else," said Alan Detmeister, a former Fed economist now at UBS.

Detmeister and other economists increasingly think that the supply disruptions of the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine played the biggest role in accelerating inflation. Even as spending on goods soared, spending on services declined, leaving overall demand roughly in line with pre-pandemic trends.

This inflationary episode, Detmeister said, may end up more closely resembling the one that occurred after World War II than the one of the late 1970s and early 1980s. After World War II, manufacturing output slowed as factories retooled from wartime production. At the same time, many returning servicemembers moved to the suburbs, and demand spiked for homes, appliances and furniture. Even so, inflation eased once output resumed.

In a recent study, Mike Konczal, a director at the Roosevelt Institute think tank, found that the prices of nearly three-quarters of goods and services have declined as quantities have increased. This suggested to him that rising supplies have been the primary reason why inflation has declined. (The figures exclude volatile food and gas prices in order to capture

underlying trends.)

It's unclear how much longer this trend can continue to help slow inflation. Susan Collins, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, said Friday that the supply rebound has indeed eased inflation in goods. But the cost of most services, she said, "has yet to show the sustained improvement" that's needed to bring inflation down to the Fed's 2% target.

Konczal remains optimistic. Inflation is slowing in many services categories, including restaurants, laundry services and veterinary care, even without much of a drop in demand.

"The disinflation we're seeing," he wrote in his study, "is therefore broad and could continue."

The job market has changed. Another supply improvement has occurred in the job market: The supply of labor. Since the Fed began raising rates last year, about 3.4 million people have begun looking for work. One big driver factor has been a rebound in immigration that followed the easing of pandemic-era restrictions.

And more job-seekers are still coming off the sidelines. The proportion of adults in their prime working years — ages 25 through 54 — who either have a job or are looking for one has reached its highest point in two decades.

At the same time, businesses appear to need fewer workers. But instead of cutting jobs, they are seeking fewer new employees. The number of open jobs has sunk from more than 12 million last year to 8.8 million in July, though it's still well above its pre-pandemic level. And fewer people are quitting jobs in search of higher pay elsewhere.

Powell noted last week that fewer job openings and more workers mean the labor market has been brought into better balance. This has taken the pressure off companies to raise wages to find and keep workers. Still, with inflation having eased, hourly pay is now growing faster than prices.

Even among businesses that worry about the economic outlook, many are more reluctant to cut jobs than in the past. Jay Starkman, CEO of Engage PEO, which provides human resources services to small companies, said many employers seem "hung over" from the rapid layoffs and then rapid

rehiring that occurred during and after the pandemic recession of 2020.

"Employers today are saying, 'Well, my business is a little down. I can stomach holding on to these employees for now. I really don't want to go through having to find and then train good employees again.'"

Consumers and businesses have kept going

Another reason why high interest rates haven't caused unemployment to jump is that many households and companies were better insulated from rate hikes than in the past.

Americans as a whole saved a sizable chunk of the thousands of dollars of stimulus checks and enhanced unemployment benefits they received during the pandemic. Those savings helped propel consumer spending well into this year.

Fed officials are watching to see how long those savings will continue to buoy spending. Americans are running up more credit card debt, a sign that their savings are running out. Bank of America has said that credit card balances for its upper- and middle-income clients remain below pre-pandemic levels but have grown sharply for lower-income groups.

Businesses, particularly large ones, also took advantage of lower rates in 2020 and 2021 to refinance debt, thereby locking in lower payments. As a result, rate hikes haven't necessarily raised their borrowing costs.

Over time, according to a report from the Federal Reserve's Boston branch, much of that borrowing will have to be refinanced at higher rates. Profit growth could then suffer, and companies may lay off workers.

For now, some businesses are also benefiting from government subsidies in legislation pushed by the Biden administration, including measures to boost investment in infrastructure, renewable energy and semiconductor manufacturing. Spending on new factories has jumped in response.

"We've had a supply-side revival — driven, in part, by public investment," said Daleep Singh, chief global economist at PGIM Fixed Income, and formerly a top economic official in the administration.

Last week, the Fed's policymakers revised their economic projections to show core inflation — excluding volatile food and energy — amounting to 2.6% by the end of next year, down from 4.2% now, according to the Fed's preferred measure. At the same time, they foresee unemployment edging up to just 4.1% — lower than their June forecast of 4.5% for 2024.

"If we actually get an outcome like that ... without a recession, that's a really good outcome, given the scope of the shock," said William English, a former senior Fed official who is now a professor at Yale School of Management.

Online gaming companies to collect 28% on full bet value, offshore platforms to be GST registered from October 1

NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (Agencies): From October 1, online gaming companies will charge 28 per cent GST on full value of bets, while offshore platforms too would be required to have GST registration to operate in India.

The finance ministry notified October 1 as the appointed date for the amended provisions in Central GST and Integrated GST laws to come into effect.

E-gaming companies, however, flagged that since many states are yet to pass amendments in their respective State GST (SGST) laws, this notification by the union government in CGST and IGST laws will create confusion.

According to the changes to the Central GST Act, online gaming, casinos and horse racing will henceforth be treated as "actionable claims" similar to lottery, betting and gambling and subject to 28 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on full face value of bets.

The amendments to Integrated GST (IGST) Act makes it mandatory for offshore online gaming platforms to take registration in India and pay 28 per cent tax in accordance with the domestic law. The amendments will also provide for blocking access to online gaming platforms located overseas in case of failure to comply with registration and tax payment provisions.

In its meetings in July and August, the GST Council, comprising finance ministers of Centre and states, had approved amendments to the law to include online gaming, casinos and horse racing as taxable actionable claims, and clarified that such supplies would attract 28 per cent tax on full bet value.

Parliament last month passed amendments to the Central GST and Integrated GST laws to give effect to the Council's decision. Following that, rules for valuation by these companies were also notified on September 6.

The finance ministry has now notified that October 1 will be the appointed date for implementation of these provisions. In a letter to Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra, All India Gaming Federation (AIGF) sought to know that with around 15 states yet to make changes to their respective State GST laws, what would be GST treatment that ought to be adopted by online gaming companies registered in those states in relation to deposits received from players of those states. It requested the Centre to "reconsider these notifications and suspend them till all the states pass their respective amendments, in line with the scheme of GST and the judgment of the Supreme Court of India and in the meanwhile, address the aforesaid issues vide necessary clarifications so that at an operational level, the industry

has some clarity and can accordingly align its processes and technology."

EY Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said online gaming companies will also need to create a data repository to store customer information and other data required for undertaking GST compliances in India for a specified period of time.

"It is important for online money gaming companies to comply with the new GST regulations in order to avoid any penalties in the future," Agarwal said.

KPMG Indirect Tax Head & Partner, Abhishek Jain said with the said provisions being made effective from October 1, industry needs to ensure appropriate readiness for adoption of the revised taxation.

"While most provisions for the revised taxability have been notified, ambiguity on certain matters continue including classification of the supplies made, time of supply, transition provisions, etc.," Jain said.

AIGF Spokesperson said the central government has notified the applicability of the new GST regime for online gaming from October 1, 2023. However, it seems that multiple states have not passed the amendment to their State GST Act.

"This is creating a conundrum where the online gaming companies in such states will have to charge CGST but not SGST. At the same time in states where the amendment has been done, both CGST and SGST will be charged.

"In this light the industry is hoping that the government will take cognizance of the situation and allow reasonable time to the industry for transition," the AIGF spokesperson said.

The GST Council in its meeting in August had decided that the amended provision to classify these supplies as actionable claims and clarifying the taxation provisions would come into effect from October 1.

A review of the implementation was proposed to be carried out after six months, which is April 2024.

A host of online gaming, like Dream11, and casino operator, like Delta Corp, have received GST show cause notices in this month for alleged short payment of taxes. Separately, a show cause notice was sent to GamesKraft in September last year for alleged GST evasion of Rs 21,000 crore.

While the Karnataka High Court has ruled in favour of the company, the Centre in July filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court. While staying the HC order, the Supreme Court listed the matter for next hearing on October 10.

Apple to hire more people in UK to work on AI: Tim Cook

LONDON, Oct 1 (Agencies): Apple CEO Tim Cook has revealed plans to hire more employees in the UK, as the iPhone maker aims to double down on work in the field of artificial intelligence (AI).

Cook, who has always called layoffs as a "last resort", told PA news agency during his visit to the country that Apple is looking to ramp up hiring in Britain.

When asked about AI and jobs in the UK, he said: "We're hiring in that area, yes, and so I do expect (investment) to increase."

Cook said that AI was behind several prominent features on Apple products.

"It's literally everywhere on our products and of course we're also researching generative AI as well, so we have a lot going on," he was quoted as saying in the report.

"AI is behind the Fall Detection on the (Apple) Watch, it's behind Crash Detection, it's behind Afib (atrial fibrillation) detection, it's behind the ECG, it's predictive typing on iPhone," Cook added.

Culture Secretary Michelle Donelan said Apple's decision was "another vote of confidence in our burgeoning tech sector."

"Apple's ongoing investment in brilliant British talent highlights our global credentials as both an AI and technology superpower," she posted on X.

Apple also revealed that it now supports more than 550,000 jobs across the UK through direct employment and other means, and has a new office in Cambridge where several hundred staff are working on AI, machine learning and other projects, reports Standard. co.uk.

Blood substances to help identify long Covid-19 patients discovered in new research

Long Covid patients also exhibited an increased antibody circulation and markedly lower levels of hormone cortisol, released by body under stress, compared to those not infected by SARS-CoV-2.

NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (Agencies): Blood biomarkers for long Covid, or specific blood substances indicating the disease, have been identified, and could be used to accurately distinguish patients with the disease, scientists report in a new research published in the journal Nature.

The long Covid patients also exhibited an increased antibody circulation and markedly lower levels of the hormone cortisol, released

by body under stress, compared to those not infected by SARS-CoV-2, they said.

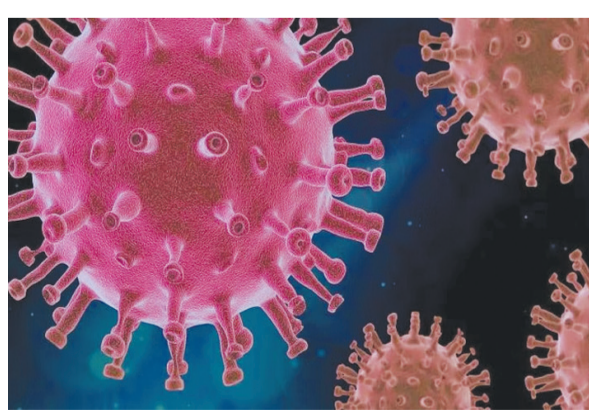
The antibodies circulating also included those that help the body fight non-Covid viruses, such as the Epstein-Barr virus, which is a human herpes-causing virus linked with many cancers, the scientists from Yale University and other US institutes found by analysing the patients' blood samples.

"The work is a decisive step forward in the

development of valid and reliable blood testing protocols for long COVID," said principal investigator David Putrino, from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, US.

Further, "the findings can inform more sensitive testing and personalised treatments for long COVID patients," said Putrino.

For the study, the researchers recruited 271 patients between January 2021 and June



2022 and grouped them as such - those with no prior SARS-CoV-2 infection; those fully recovered from a clinically confirmed case

of COVID-19; those with active long COVID symptoms for at least four months after confirmed COVID-19 infection.

The researchers analysed the patients' blood samples and applied machine learning algorithms to determine the biomarkers most effective for identifying patients with long-term COVID-19.

The patients were also asked to respond to questionnaires enquiring about their symptoms, medical history, and health-related quality of life.

The researchers said that the algorithm was 96 per cent accurate in

identifying people with and without long Covid and that it detected the condition based on the distinct features exhibited by the affected participants' blood - those of enhanced antibody circulation and low levels of cortisol production.

"These markers need to be validated in larger studies, but provide a first step in dissecting the disease pathogenesis of long COVID," said co-principal investigator Akiko Iwasaki, professor of immunobiology and

of molecular, cellular & developmental biology at Yale School of Medicine.

"There is no 'silver bullet' for treating long COVID, because it is an illness that infiltrates complex systems such as the immune and hormonal regulation. Complex illnesses require complex treatment solutions and we need more rapid research to better understand long COVID and discover new and promising therapies," said Putrino.

Gavaskar picks this team as favourites for ICC Cricket World Cup

Indian batting legend highlights importance of warm-up matches ahead of world cup

NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (Agencies): Indian batting legend Sunil Gavaskar has picked England as his favourite for the ICC Cricket World Cup, citing their batting and bowling talent as a reason.

"The defending champions, England because of the kind of talent that they have at, at the top of the order, the batting order, they have got two or three world-class all-rounders who can change the game with both bat and ball. They have also got a very good bowling line-up, experienced bowling lineup, so at the moment in my book certainly," Gavaskar said on Star Sports.

He also highlighted the importance of warm-up matches and shared his experience of having a great team bonding in the 1983 World Cup.

"It affects massively because when you talked about that 1983, we played their two games against the minor counties, we lost both those games but there was so much to learn from both those games. Mind you, that was early June,



towards the end of May specifically and it was really cold and the pitches were green and the ball was seeming around, so even minor county bowlers can make you look a little ordinary and that is exactly what happened but it gave us a lot to think about," he said.

"The fact that we had just beaten the West Indies in the West Indies a couple of months earlier, gave us the belief that sure this is just the kind of wake-up call that you need. This is just the kind of thing that you need to know that in England, the pitches are going to be dif-

ferent, the conditions are going to be different, and the ball will move around in the air off the surface, so better be prepared for that.

"But the best part about travelling in England is that you are travelling in a team bus, where there is very little chance of groups being formed because the coach itself is such that you keep moving around, people bump into each other, they are a bit of a mateship, leg pulling, if I might call it that, a little bit of teasing here and there and then maybe watching a little bit of the video, which is put up in a video

movie. But it builds a spirit of togetherness, you understand each other and I think that is probably one of the best things that can happen. In an aircraft, when you travel from, what can you do in an aircraft? You cannot go and talk to the person behind in your seat, that's very difficult. So I think that is what helped us in 1983 for sure," he added.

Irfan Pathan has also named his World Cup favourites.

"I am very excited to see how India performs and I really think they are one of the favourites, for sure because especially last couple of series, like Asia Cup, and the way India played against Australia as well in the home conditions. I think they are ticking all the boxes. They have players who are performing really well but you have a guy like Mohammed Shami, who is not in the part of playing 11 consistently, who is a world-class bowler itself, so it shows the kind of team India has and at the same time the bench strength India has."

Used to it now, says Yuzvendra Chahal on missing his 3rd straight World Cup



NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (Agencies): India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal could not find a place in the ODI World Cup squad. Chahal, one of the best Indian leg spinners in recent times was snubbed from the team once again. Earlier, Chahal did not make it to the 2021 T20 World Cup in the UAE and did not play a single match in the 2022 edition of the tournament despite getting selected.

Speaking to Wisden from England, Chahal said that he was used to getting dropped not and said that it had become a part of his life.

"I understand that only

fifteen players can be a part, because it's a World Cup, where you can't take 17 or 18," Chahal told Wisden India.

"I do feel a little bad, but my motto in life is to move on. I'm used to it now because it's been three World Cups (laughs)," Chahal further added.

The Rajasthan Royals spinner said that he left India to play County Cricket because he did not want to sit at home.

"That's why I came here [at Kent] to play because I want to play cricket somewhere, somehow," Chahal said.

"I'm getting a chance here with a red ball, and

I seriously want to play red ball for India. So it was a good experience for me," he further added.

India picked three spinners in their ranks - Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, and R Ashwin, who made a late entry into the side, replacing Axar Patel. Among the three, it is expected that Kuldeep will be India's weapon of choice due to the novelty of his style.

Chahal spoke about his County outing a little more and said that he was happy to play top flight cricket in England and added that he wanted to play Test cricket for India.

"I spoke to the coaches too, and they're happy I'm playing somewhere, because you can practice as much in the nets, but match is match. I'm getting to play at a very good level here - first division, County - learning a lot here," Chahal concluded.

AUS vs NED: Mitchell Starc serves World Cup warning with hat trick in warm-up game

TRIVANDRUM, Oct 1 (Agencies): Australia pacer Mitchell Starc announced his arrival ahead of the ODI World Cup with a stunning hat-trick in their first warm-up match against Netherlands. Starc, the most successful active ODI World Cup bowler, wiped out the entire Netherlands top order with a sensational spell of bowling.

Starc dismissed Max O'Dowd, Wesley Barresi, and Bas de Leede with three stunning deliveries. The left-arm fast bowler relied on swing under the lights while defending 167 runs in 23 overs and ran through the top order.

He trapped O'Dowd with an inswinger plumb in front of the wicket, went through the defence of Barresi, and then yorked out de Leede.

Apart from Starc, Mitchell Marsh, Marnus



Labuschagne and Sean Abbott were amongst the wickets and had left Netherlands reeling at 84/6 in 14.2 overs before the game had to be stopped due to rain.

Australia are coming into the World Cup on the back of two series losses. They lost 3-2 against Australia and then were defeated by India 2-1. However, with this kind of rhythm, that seems like a long ago.

Starc in particular would be looking forward to the World Cup, given he is just one wicket away from 50 scalps in the ODI format of the tournament. Starc

is one of the greatest World Cup bowlers of all time and has 49 wickets from 18 matches. His sensational average of 14.82, is even better than the legendary Glenn McGrath, who is the highest ODI World Cup wicket-taker of all time. Starc has been on song in the Indian sub-continent and was one of the main reasons behind Australia's ODI series victory in March, where India lost 2-1 to the Steve Smith side. The left arm pacer would hope for some swing early on in Indian conditions to maximise his impact.

Kuldeep best spinner going into World Cup, will give India significant advantage: Intikhab Alam

HYDERABAD, Oct 1 (Agencies): Kuldeep Yadav is the best spinner going into the World Cup and will give India a distinct advantage in the middle overs through the course of the 50-over showpiece, reckons former Pakistan captain Intikhab Alam.

The 28-year-old Kuldeep is being seen as India's trump card in the World Cup at home, having taken 33 wickets in 17 ODIs at an average of 16.03 this year.

Since coming back from a knee injury, Kuldeep has worked on his arm speed and angles, helping him get a bagful of wickets in the middle overs.

Alam, who has been to India multiple times as a player and having also served as a manager of the Pakistan team in the past, feels it will be advantage India in the mother of all clashes in Ahmedabad on October 14.

"The way India played in Asia Cup and played the final (decimating Sri Lanka). They look like



the team to beat. Their spin attack stands out. Kuldeep is going to play a major role in the tournament. He will test the batters of all teams," Alam told agency.

"Jadeja and Kuldeep make a lethal combination. Kuldeep is a match winner. He is the best spinner in this World Cup in my opinion. Now you also have (Ravichandran) Ashwin back," said the 81-year-old, who was born in Hoshiarpur in the pre-Independence India.

Alam added that India's batting, including greats like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, as well as the in-form Shubman Gill makes the hosts a strong con-

do well in this phase else teams will easily score 300 against them. Naseem Shah is young and quick and he too will be missed with the new ball," said Alam referring to Shah's injury.

'Stick with Fakhar Zaman'

Fakhar Zaman has been battling an inconsistent run and pressure is building on him ahead of the team's opening World Cup fixture against Netherlands, here on October 6. Abdullah Shafique can replace him at the top.

"On these true wickets in India, most games will be high-scoring. With Fakhar you can expect anything, he will fire in one out of five games but you have to take that risk with him," said Alam.

'Since my first tour of India in 1961, Pakistan have been accorded warm welcome'

Barring two members, Pakistan players are visiting India for the first time including captain Babar Azam and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Upon their arrival here on Wednesday, the entire squad was overwhelmed with an unexpected welcome at the airport.

For Alam, who has also coached the Punjab team in Ranji Trophy in the early 2000s, it doesn't come as a surprise.

"Whenever we go to India we get a memorable welcome. I have spent two years there (as Punjab coach). People to people contact should be encouraged in tense times like these," he said.

Alam said Pakistan cricketers will feel the pressure of playing on Indian soil.

There will be pressure, for sure. It depends on how team management treat the players to ensure they focus only on cricket. You get four years to prepare for an event like this. You have to do something special so people remember for you a long time. It is a great opportunity for Babar and Co," added Alam.

India beat Pakistan by 10-2 in hockey; captain Harmanpreet hits four

HANGZHOU, Oct 1 (Agencies): Captain Harmanpreet Singh found the net four times as a rampaging India hammered Pakistan 10-2 to record their biggest-ever win over the arch-rivals in a one-sided Pool A match to book a semifinal berth in the men's hockey competition at the Asian Games here on Saturday.

Harmanpreet scored in the 11th, 17th, 33rd and 34th minutes while Varun Kumar (41st and 54th) struck twice. Mandeep Singh (8th), Sumit (30th), Samsher Singh (46th) and Lalit Kumar Upadhyay (49th) were the other goal getters. Pakistan reduced the margin through Muhammad Khan (38th) and Abdul Rana (45th) as India toyed their opponents for large part of their penultimate pool match.

This was the 180th match between the two teams and the 8-goal margin win was the biggest-ever in the history of India-Pakistan hockey.

India's earlier biggest victory margin was 7-1 against Pakistan registered in 2017.



Pakistan's 7-1 win in the final of 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi was their biggest win against India.

India, thus, exacted revenge of that humiliating loss 41 years ago through Saturday's match.

India collected 12 points from four consecutive wins to stay on top of the pool.

India will play Bangladesh on October 2 in their last Pool A match.

India took the lead when Abhishek made a fine turn on the left side into the opponent's striking circle and his pass was deflected into goal in the eighth minute by Mandeep.

Pakistan made some threatening moves and earned their first penalty corner in the 11th minute but India goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak was up to the task.

India doubled their lead in the 11 minute when they were awarded a penalty stroke and Harmanpreet made no mistake.

Harmanpreet scored his second goal and sixth of the tournament in the 17th minute by converting India's first penalty corner of the match with an accurate drag-flick.

Pakistan attacked mostly from the left side but failed to get a clear shot at the Indian goal.

Pakistan earned their second penalty corner in the 28th minute but failed to get past veteran Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh.

Just seconds before half-time, Sumit struck with a fierce reverse hit. The Pakistanis went for a review but lost and trailed 0-4 at the halfway mark.

India made it 5-0 three minutes after the change of ends with Harmanpreet converting another penalty stroke after the ball hit a Pakistani player's foot.

Initially, the referee gave a penalty corner but India successfully reviewed for a penalty stroke.

It turned into a rout for Pakistan as India earned three back-to-back penalty corners and Harmanpreet struck his fourth goal of the day with a fine drag flick.

Varun, Shamsheer and Lalit too joined the party with field goals in the 41st, 46th and 49th minutes.

Varun found the net for the second time in the day when he converted a penalty corner six minutes from the final hooter.

"People Were Telling Me I Was...": Virat Kohli Opens Up On Frustrating Time Ahead Of World Cup



HYDERABAD, Oct 1 (Agencies): Virat Kohli will be featuring in his fourth ODI World Cup as Team India look to end a 10-year drought for an ICC trophy. Kohli, who made his World Cup debut in 2011, was part of the MS Dhoni-led side that defeated Sri Lanka to lift the trophy in Mumbai. After overcoming a rough patch, Kohli has been in tremendous form this year in ODIs, scoring five centuries, while also becoming the fastest batter to register 13,000 runs in the format. With 47 ODI

centuries in total, Kohli is on the cusp of surpassing his idol Sachin Tendulkar's all-time tally of 49 as he gets set to lead India's charge at the World Cup.

Reflecting on his rough patch, Kohli said the past few years have been a massive learning curve for him.

"The last two and a half years have taught me a lot. Those angry celebrations are a thing of the past. I have had many suggestions, lots of advice has come my way; people were telling me I was doing

this wrong, that wrong," Kohli told ICC.

"I picked out all the videos from the best time I had, same initial movement, same approach towards the ball and it was just what was happening inside my head, I wasn't able to explain it to anyone," he added.

With veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin added to India's squad as replacement of Axar Patel, Kohli is the second player from the class of 12 years ago to be part of India's squad this time around.

India World Cup squad: Rohit Sharma (c), Hardik Pandya (vc), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Ravichandran Ashwin Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav.

Chief Election Commissioner felicitates JKAS candidates of Chanakya IAS Academy Jammu centre

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: The prestigious Chanakya IAS Academy Jammu celebrated a momentous occasion today as it felicitated the accomplished candidates of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services (JKAS) examination. 110 students got selected from Chanakya IAS Academy Jammu centre among 4 in top 10 which includes Mr Saurav Rank 2nd, Akshay Parihar Rank 3rd, Aditi singaal Rank 7th and Anie Vaid Rank 9th among others. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Chief Guest B.R. Sharma, (state Chief election Commissioner) distinguished bureaucrat, and Mr. Owais Ali Bhat, the Director of Chanakya IAS Academy Jammu. A.K Mishra (Md, Chanakya IAS Academy), a renowned figure in the field of education, few more dignitaries also joined the event to honor the high-achieving candidates.

The felicitation ceremony was held at a grand venue Redission Jammu, where the can-



didates who had exhibited exemplary dedication and determination in achieving success in the JKAS 2022 examination were recognized and applauded. The event showcased the spirit of excellence and hard work that has become synonymous with Chanakya IAS Academy Jammu centre Chief Guest B.R. Sharma, a luminary in the field of administration, praised the candidates for their remarkable accomplishments and encouraged them to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir

with dedication and integrity. He emphasized the significance of public service in contributing to the development and progress of the region.

Owais Ali Bhat, the Director Chanakya IAS Academy Jammu, expressed his pride in the achievements of the students and highlighted the academy's commitment to nurturing talent and preparing aspirants for a successful career in civil services. He lauded the dedication of the faculty and staff in guiding and mentoring the candidates.

He also shared inspirational words with the attendees, emphasizing the importance of education as a catalyst for change and progress. He encouraged the candidates to continue their pursuit of knowledge and service to society. The felicitation ceremony was marked by moments of pride, inspiration, and optimism for the future of Jammu and Kashmir. It served as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the candidates, the dedication of Chanakya IAS Academy, and the support of eminent person-

alities like B.R. Sharma, Mr. Ak Mishra, and Mr. Owais Ali Bhat, KB Jandial(former member JKPSC), Subhash Gupta(retd Judge & former member JKPSC) M M Gupta(Rtd Chief Engineer) Sameer Bharti(Rtd IFS and Former member JKPSC).

The event concluded with a sense of hope and determination, as the felicitated candidates embarked on their journeys to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir and make a positive impact on the region.

JK Saryara Sadar Sabha celebrates its Foundation Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: The Jammu and Kashmir Saryara Sadar Sabha marked a significant milestone by celebrating its foundation day, with Babu Rampaul, former Minister and President of Saryara Sadar Sabha Jammu and Kashmir, gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The program commenced with the lighting of candles, symbolizing a wish for peace, prosperity, and the well-being of the community.

During his address, Babu Rampaul stressed the importance of unity, integrity, and holistic development within the community. A poignant moment of silence was observed in memory of departed souls, including Mangu Ram of Kot,

Mohan Lal of Janipur, and Krishan Lal of Paloura. Prayers were offered for eternal peace for the departed souls and strength for their grieving families.

Various speakers shared their perspectives, emphasizing their commitment to strengthening unity, integrity, and the overall development of the community.

Baldev Raj, General Secretary, extended a warm welcome to all the attendees.

Distinguished guests included Sat Pal Shabotra (Jammu City President), BD Dalotra (Retd SP), Master Jagdish Chander, Parshotam Lal (Recently elected President of Bahu Fort), Bhadur Lal (former President of Bahu Fort), Murari Lal, Ricky Dalotra,

Charan Dass Dogra (President of District Reasi), and Sunil Fangothra.

Also present at the event were Mahesh Kumar Patial, Rajinder Nargotra, Rajinder Kumar Janipur, Rajinder Kumar (Rushtam), Surjit K. Dalotra (Secretary City Sabha), Charan Dass (Vice-President), Sukhdev Sagotra (Chief Organizer), Tilak Raj Shabotra (Organizer), Pardeep Kumar (Basohli), Ram Parkash (Youth President of Reasi), Sagar Dalotra, Kasturi Lal Sagotra, Raj Kumar (Youth President of the City), and many others. Sat Pal Shabotra extended heartfelt thanks to all participants and organizers for their valuable contributions to the event.



Balwant Thakur's Hindi play 'JAAL' staged under 'Sunday Theatre'



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: Balwant Thakur's Hindi play 'JAAL' staged here today under Natrang's weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre' in the open air at Rani Park, Jammu under the direction of Neeraj Kant. In a very effective manner this powerful play innovatively showcases how the Drug-menace is ruining the generations like a rapid fire, crippling the highly energetic human resource of developing nations like India. The youth of India, the most influential and the productive human resource of the country, sometimes unknowingly slips into the suicidal trap of drug menace. Before the beginning of the play Jaal, Natrang actors under the mission 'Garbage Free India', took an initiative to clean the Rani Park with utmost sincerity and commitment.

The play was not based on one story-line but as an experiment Balwant Thakur has woven multiple stories in one theme focusing the spread of drug menace like a mesh, this taking the toll of the strongest workforce of the country.

In a sequence a young boy is shown struggling for a good company after his passing of the school and entry in the college. He is isolated for not being the consumer of intoxications. All around him treat him like a child which really frustrates him and to prove that he has grown-up as a young man now, he finds the easiest way and demonstrates his coming of age by consuming a variety of intoxications. In another sequence a rural inhabitation particularly the men-folk is shown drowned in the menace of alcohol. All the miseries of the village like poverty, domestic violence, and ailments are attributed to the constant growth of consumption of alcohol in the village. In a sequence the daily routine of a villager is shown who consumes the whole of his daily earnings seeking alcohol. Being drunk completely he has loses his way home. By the time a local escorts him to his place where in the middle of the night this drunken man starts beating his sleeping wife and kids for not receiving him on his

arrival. When the escort intervenes to save the poor lady and children, he is blamed for having ill intentions towards his wife. This fight further messes up when a drunken man after losing senses damages his household belongings as well. The play unfolds a series of incidents where people influenced by drugs, alcohol and other intoxications create hell for themselves as well as for others. Many precious lives are being charred in this fire of drug menace which is to be fought unitedly to bring them out of the mesh of drugs menace. Through this play Balwant Thakur has tried to make an appeal to save mankind from this dragon.

Actors who outshined in their respective performances and left an impact of their acting included Chirag Anand, Aadesh Dhar, Kananpreet Kaur, Aadesh Dhar, Gopi Sharma, Kushal Bhat, Sumit Bandaral, Abhimanyu Choudhary and Sanket Bhagat. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen and Neeraj Kant presented the show before the audiences.

SSP Ashok Kumar accorded warm farewell on his superannuation from service

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 1: In a heartfelt ceremony today, Mukesh Singh, IPS, ADGP Jammu Zone, extended his warm regards to Ashok Kumar, IPS, SSP Staff Officer, who has recently been inducted into the Indian Police Service (IPS) by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) along with other officers from the Jammu and Kashmir Police services, as per the notification dated 29th September 2023.

Following the decoration ceremony, ADGP Jammu Mukesh Singh organized a farewell function in honor of Ashok Kumar - IPS, SSP, at the Conference Hall, ZPHQ Jammu, as



Sh. Ashok Kumar is set to retire from the police department today, on the 30th of September 2023, after dedicating over 24 years of his life to public service.

During the event, ADGP Jammu Zone and DIG JSK Range, Shakti Pathak, praised

Ashok Kumar for his outstanding contributions while serving in various capacities within the department, including his roles in the Vigilance Organization, PTS Vijaypur, and as Staff Officer to ADGP Jammu Zone on two separate occasions. Sh. Ashok

Kumar - IPS, SSP has received numerous Commendation certificates, rewards, and accolades from senior officials throughout his career. His exceptional dedication led to him being awarded the DGPs Commendation Medal in 2004, the Chief

Vigilance Medal in 2007, and a cash award of Rs. 51,000 for displaying exemplary courage while performing his duties.

The farewell function was held as a token of appreciation for Ashok Kumar - IPS, SSP (Staff Officer) and his significant contributions to the department. The entire department extends their best wishes to him for a happy and prosperous post-retirement life. Chandan Koli - IPS, SSP Jammu, Rajinder Katoch - JKPS, SSP Staff Officer to DIG JSK Range, as well as all the Gazetted Officers, Non-Gazetted Officers, and staff of the ZPHQ Jammu, were present at the event.

Poshan Project Officer Rajwar leads Swachhta Hi Seva Abhiyan Sanitation Campaign in Handwara

TOP NEWS REPORT

HANDWARA, Oct 1: The Poshan Project Officer of Rajwar, along with a dedicated team of supervisors and Sangnis/Sahikas, orchestrated a massive sanitation campaign in the slum area of Handwara as part of the nationwide "Swachhta Hi Seva Abhiyan."

This initiative saw enthusiastic participation from the migrant residents of the slum, with a special focus on engaging the children, leaving a profound and lasting impact on the community. CDPO Rajwar, Wani Sha-keela je, Abida War, and the entire supervisor team played instrumental roles in spearheading the campaign, leveraging their expertise and unwavering commitment to the cause.

Under the able administration of Mr. Tanveer Hakeem,



the DPO of Kupwara, the entire ICDS sector in Kupwara demonstrated their dedication not only to the Poshan Abhiyan but also to the Swachhta Hi Seva Abhiyan. The community-to-commu-

nity interaction with fresh and vibrant ideas was highlighted as a significant driver of positive change, as stated by Abida War. The successful execution of the sanitation campaign is a

testament to the power of community engagement and the commitment of individuals and organizations in fostering a cleaner and healthier environment for all.